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Review of quadrennial reports submitted by non-governmental organizations in general and special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council

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Note by the Secretary-General

Addendum

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1. Association of Development Financing Institutions in Asia and the Pacific

(Special consultative status granted 1993)

What is ADFIAP?

The Association of Development Financing Institutions in Asia and the Pacific (ADFIAP) is a regional organization of development banks and other financial institutions engaged in the financing of development in the region. ADFIAP's vision is to promote development financing as a means to enhance the quality of life of peoples in the region and to achieve sustainable regional development.

ADFIAP organizes forums, seminars and consultative gatherings with international organizations that share the Association's development objectives. Among these international organizations are the Asian Development Bank (ADB), the Australian Agency for International Development (AUSAID), the Economic Development Institute of the World Bank (EDI/WB), the German Foundation for International Development (DSE), the International Trade Centre (United Nations Conference on Trade and Development/World Trade Organization (UNCTAD/WTO) (ITC), the World Bank, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) and others.

Membership

ADFIAP's membership geographically covers the entire Asia-Pacific region. From an original 31 charter signatories in 1977, its roster grew to 78 development banks and financial institutions from 33 countries as of June 1998. This also includes some institutions outside the region such as those from Egypt, Canada, Brazil and Jamaica. The Asian Development Bank and the World Bank are Special Members of the Association.

Key officers of the ADFIAP Secretariat are Mr. Orlando P. Peña, Secretary-General and Mr. Octavio B. Peralta, Deputy Secretary-General.

Review of ADFIAP's activities and projects

Annual conferences

Every year, members of ADFIAP gather to tackle issues relevant to their operations and their economies. Between 1994 and 1997, ADFIAP members had touched on both different locales of the region and varying issues affecting them:

(a) Seventeenth ADFIAP Annual Conference, 28 to 30 April 1994, Karachi, Pakistan; host: National Development Finance Corporation; theme: "Maximizing DFI Resources and Capabilities for the 21st Century: Issues, Problems and Directions";

(b) Eighteenth ADFIAP Annual Conference, 27 to 29 April 1995, Sydney, Australia; host: Commonwealth Development Bank of Australia; theme: "Enhancing DFI Competitiveness and Service Excellence Through Innovative Banking Technology";

(c) Nineteenth ADFIAP Annual Conference, 26 to 28 April 1996, Phuket, Thailand; host: Industrial Finance Corporation of Thailand; theme: "New Business Opportunities and Challenges for Development Banks";

(d) Twentieth ADFIAP Annual Conference and First World Summit on Development Finance, 5 to 8 May 1997, Manila, Philippines; host: Development Bank of the Philippines; theme: "Financing Development in the New World Trade Order".

Training programmes

ITC-ADFIAP programmes: between 1994 and 1997, ADFIAP had organized the following programmes in collaboration with the International Trade Centre UNCTAD/WTO (ITC) and UNDP:

(a) Regional Workshop for Senior Project Officers of DFIs on Financing SMEs, 29 November to 1 December 1994, Manila, Philippines;

(b) Training the Trainers Seminar Workshop in Joint Venture Development, 5 to 8 December 1994, Kota Kinabalu, Sabah, Malaysia.

Symposia/forums

(a) Private Sector Energy Power Generation Financing, 28 April 1994, Karachi, Pakistan;

(b) Second Human Resources Management Forum, 14 to 15 October 1996, Manila, Philippines.

Publications

ADFIAP produces a number of publications suited to the needs of its members. The publications are aimed at disseminating information, and at updating as well as enhancing DFI operations. The ADFIAP newsletter covers the latest activities and programmes of the Association and its members. The *Executive Memogenda* contains new ideas, trends and best practices to promote excellence in development banking. The *Journal of Development Finance* is a quarterly publication which features technical papers, reports and proceedings of seminars or conferences. Among the subjects the Journal covered between 1994 and 1997 were:

(a) 1994: *Financing Small and Medium Enterprises* (papers from the Symposium on SMEs held at Hanoi, Viet Nam); *Maximizing DFI Resources and Capabilities for 21st Century, Issues, Problems and Directions* (papers from the ADFIAP Karachi Conference); *Securities Market Regulation and Supervision* (papers from the ADB Asia-Pacific Forum on Securities Market Regulation and Supervision); *Negotiation and Bargaining* (research papers and contributions from affiliates);

(b) 1995: *Environmental Issues* (environment papers from the World Bank and ADB); *Enhancing DFI Competitiveness and Service Excellence through Innovative Banking Technology* (papers from the ADFIAP Sydney Conference); *Global Issues on Women* (contributory articles and papers from the Fourth World Conference on Women);

(c) 1996: *Urban Financing* (contributory and researched articles); *The Development Role of Financing* (contributory and researched articles); *Human Resource Management* (contributory and researched articles);

(d) 1997: *Mutual Funds* (contributory and researched articles); *Microenterprise Development and Financing* (contributory and researched articles).

Major projects

Major projects are:

(a) A-Net: A-Net or ADFIAP's Global Network for electronic banking and commerce was created to link ADFIAP members and their clients and to offer the latest state-of-the-art Web-based services to members, thus levelling the playing field for small enterprises which are the bulk of the member bank's clients. The ADFIAP home page can be accessed at http://www.adfiap.org Web sites of members are linked to ADFIAP page, providing easy accessibility both to co-members and clients;

(b) National Consultative Summits on Development Finance, organized under ADFIAP's initiative to help countries formulate strategic goals of improving their capacity to determine the sustainability of their national development; and to create the forum for discussion of and achieve consensus on action required to improve policies, projects and programmes on the financing of development;

(c) *Asian Banking Digest (ABD)*, the region's premier magazine for bankers co-published with the Asian Banker's Association (ABA), the 190 member-strong commercial banking group in the region;

(d) Asia Pacific Bankers Congress (APBC), yearly congress: a learning-cum-networking event for all bankers in the region. It features simultaneous "how-to" workshops, the Bankers World Expo and the Asian Banking Awards which cite the best projects and practices of banks in the region.

For more information on the Association, please access our Web site at http://www.adfiap.org.

2. International Scientific and Educational "Znanie" Association

(Special consultative status granted 1993)

The International Scientific and Educational "Znanie" Association is an international non-profit alliance of national and other non-governmental organizations which was voluntarily established and based on dissemination of scientific, technical and humanitarian knowledge for mutual benefit.

The main aims and objectives of the Association are to pool efforts and promote intellectual and humanitarian activities of the Association's members, aimed at a higher educational and cultural level of the people, as well as to develop contacts among scientists and specialists of different countries and to provide conditions for international information exchange.

The Association is confident that the role of disseminating knowledge and education will be strengthened under the conditions of the information revolution.

Based on the 50 years' experience and traditions of its predecessor, All-Union Society "Znanie" of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR), our Association seeks to

develop international cooperation in the field of knowledge dissemination and Adult Education strictly following Agenda 21 (chap. 36).

Adult Education as an instrument of social development which underlies stable humanity development is a motto, concept and the main objective of our activity. So when disseminating knowledge and information, we promote a higher educational and cultural level of the people, above all, of the Russian Federation and of other countries, members of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), as well as educating people in the spirit of democratic traditions and ethical recovery of society.

In 1991, 14 non-governmental educational organizations, "Znanie" societies of all States and former union republics of the USSR except Lithuania, as well as some non-governmental organizations of Italy, Mongolia, the Czech Republic and Japan joined our Association.

During the period 1994–1997 the following non-governmental organizations of the Russian Federation joined the Association: International Economists Union, General Russian Association "Promoting Higher Educational Institutions", the Ural Department of Russian Academy of Engineering Sciences, Interregional Alliance "Svetotekhnika Engineering Society" and "Disarmament for Development" Foundation, as well as some non-governmental organizations of China, Romania and the United States of America. At present, our Association maintains productive business contacts with scientific and educational organizations in more than 20 countries.

The Association is a member of the World Adult Education Council and European Adult Education Association and cooperates with these organizations.

During the period 1995–1997, representatives of the Association participated in the following meetings: General Assembly of the European Adult Education Association (Copenhagen, Denmark); annual meeting of the organization members of the European Adult Education Association on Cooperation with East European countries (Florence, Italy); International Seminar of Editors of Adult Education Publications (Helsinki, Finland); International Seminar on Adult Education (Sofia, Bulgaria); International Seminar on Telecommunications: the Use in Adult Education (Salzburg, Austria); International Conference on "The Role of the Academy of Sciences in the Balkan countries" (Athens, Greece); Fifth World Congress on Adult Education held under United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) auspices (July 1997, Hamburg, Germany); Sixth International Informatization Forum held by the International Informatization Academy in Moscow (Social-scientific area non-governmental organization in general consultative status with the Economic and Social Council in accordance with the United Nations Declaration on the occasion of the fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations (General Assembly resolution 50/6); International Conference "Innovation Forum 97" (Houston, Texas, United States). The President of the Association made reports and statements at the above conferences and seminars and the International Forum in Moscow. Besides, the President of the Association participated in the World Economical Forum (30 January–4 February 1997, Davos, Switzerland), the annual meeting of "The Rome Club" in 1997 (Puerto Rico) and the Executive Committee meeting of the International Vienna Council (21 and 22 April 1997), as well as in the meetings of the CIS Council of Heads of State and Government.

Representatives of the Association were accredited to United Nations bodies in New York, Vienna and Geneva and have been sent there lately.

The activities of the Association and its members, representatives in different countries, are focused on popularizing and disseminating humanitarian and technical

knowledge, on developing information training and scientific and research projects and programmes and on holding important international and regional conferences and seminars. For this purpose, in particular, the Executive Committee of the Association has established an International Educational Centre due to which the Association's capabilities of disseminating knowledge and adult education have increased lately (in 1996 and 1997). International conferences were held on the following subjects: "Scientific and Technologic Achievements" and "The Role of the Academy of Sciences in Disseminating Knowledge". Besides, in 1997 the Educational Centre held seminars on the following: "Children with Limited Abilities: Social Adaptation and Integration", "Fundamentals of Conductive Pedagogics", "The Role of Notarizing in Enterprise Activities", "The Strategy of the Election Campaign: Analysis, Planning and Implementation".

At present, the efforts of the Association are aimed at developing a Continued Adult Education System in the Russian Federation and other CIS member countries. These activities of the Association are based on the declaration and resolutions of the Fifth World Adult Education Conference.

In 1997, on the Association's initiative, the Committee of Heads of Government of the CIS member countries adopted "An Agreement on Cooperation in the Field of Disseminating Knowledge and Adult Education" and "The regulations of the Inter-State Committee for Disseminating Knowledge and Adult Education".

The Association is accredited to the Committee for Disseminating Knowledge and Adult Education. The establishment of this Committee is a great victory for non-governmental organizations which are now able to participate in the search for solutions of the main State, inter-State and world problems.

The Committee was established with due regard for the principal world trend: to revise the arguments and instruments of social development for the benefit of stable development of humanity, in line with Agenda 21.

The Association seeks to provide a wide range of informational services. The Association has already made the first steps in this direction: its Informational and Consulting Agency has been established. The first version of the model law on adult education has been developed. The International Association productively cooperates with UNESCO-United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) to implement the International Programme on Environmental Education for the purpose of supporting Governments, as well as national, regional and international organizations, that promote environmental education, both formal and non-formal.

Since 1991, the Association has been engaged in the translation into Russian, publication and free distribution of *Connect - UNESCO/UNEP International Environmental Education Newsletter* (Russian version). The Bulletin was distributed among appropriate organizations in the Russian Federation and other CIS member countries, as well as in Latvia and Estonia.

In 1996 (3–7 October), the Sixth Congress of the International Association was held in Kishinev (Republic of Moldova), where a new concept of the Association's activity was reviewed and approved. According to the new concept, great attention is paid to the following activities: informative education, adult education, culture and environment. Under each of these activities, various projects have been drafted and are now under implementation.

At present, great attention is paid to the project "Cooperation" aimed at developing integration contacts within CIS, as well as international contacts, in particular, with regard to the project "I am the Man of the Earth".

The Association is ready to cooperate on mutually beneficial terms with any non-governmental organizations that share our aims and objectives and conform to the basic principle of Economic and Social Council activity stipulated in the Charter of the United Nations.

3. International Association of Ports and Harbors (IAPH)

(Special consultative status granted 1966)

Introduction

The International Association of Ports and Harbors (IAPH) is a not-for-profit, non-governmental global association of port and harbor authorities founded in 1955, presently comprising some 340 members, mostly of public port authorities, covering 85 countries and territories the world over. Its principal object, as laid out in its Constitution, is to "develop and foster good relations and cooperation among all ports and harbors of the world" by promoting greater efficiency of all ports and harbors through the exchange of information on new techniques and technology relating to port development, organization, administration and management.

Participation in the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies and/or conferences and other United Nations meetings

1994:

(a) The organization's representative attended the 1994 Conference at which the Department of Public Information of the United Nations Secretariat briefed the representatives of the non-governmental organizations that have varying liaison relationships with the United Nations and its agencies;

(b) The organization's representative attended the International Maritime Organization (IMO) Seventeenth Consultative Meeting of Contracting Parties to the London Convention of 1972, 3–7 October, London, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland;

(c) The organization's representative attended the third session of the Working Group on Ship/Port Interface (SPI) of IMO, 24–28 October, London, United Kingdom;

(d) The organization's representative attended the sixty-fourth session of the Maritime Safety Committee of IMO, 5–9 December, London, United Kingdom.

1995:

(a) The organization's representative attended the International Labour Organization (ILO) Tripartite Seminar on the Social and Labour Effects of Structural Adjustment in the Port Industries of Selected Asian and Pacific Countries, 15–21 March, Pattaya, Thailand;

(b) The organization hosted and sponsored a meeting of the IMO London Convention (1972) Ad Hoc Group of Experts on Dredged Material, 23–27 January, at the Port of Los Angeles, United States of America;

(c) The organization's representative attended the third meeting of the IMO Amendment Group of the London Convention 1972, 24–28 April, London, United Kingdom;

(d) The organization's representative attended the sixty-fifth session of the IMO Maritime Safety Committee, 9–17 May, London, United Kingdom;

(e) The organization's representative attended the eighteenth meeting of the IMO Scientific Group of the London Convention 1972, 10–14 July, London, United Kingdom;

(f) The organization's representative attended the eighteenth meeting of the IMO London Convention 1972, 4–8 December, London, United Kingdom;

(g) The organization's representative attended the nineteenth IMO Assembly, 13–23 November, London, United Kingdom.

1996:

(a) The organization's representative attended the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) Intergovernmental Meeting of Port Experts, 18–22 March, Geneva, Switzerland;

(b) The organization's representative attended a meeting of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law regarding Model Law on Electronic Commerce, 14 June, New York, United States;

(c) The organization's representative attended the ILO Tripartite Meeting on Social and Labour Problems caused by Structural Adjustments in the Port Industry, 20–24 May, Geneva, Switzerland;

(d) The organization's representative attended a joint meeting of the twenty-fourth session of the IMO Facilitation Committee (FAL24) and the fourth session of the Working Group on Ship/Port Interface (SPIWG), 8–12 January, London, United Kingdom;

(e) The organization's representative attended the IMO International Conference on Hazardous and Noxious Substances, and Limitation of Liability, 15 April to 3 May, London, United Kingdom;

(f) The organization's representative attended the nineteenth meeting of the IMO London Convention 1972 Scientific Group, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil;

(g) The organization's representative attended the seventy-fourth session of the IMO Legal Committee, 14–18 October, London, United Kingdom.

1997:

(a) The organization's representative attended the thirty-ninth session of the IMO Marine Environment Protection Committee, 10–14 March, London, United Kingdom;

(b) The organization's representative attended the twenty-fifth session of the IMO Facilitation Committee, 30 June–4 July, London, United Kingdom;

(c) The organization's representative attended the sixty-eighth session of the IMO Maritime Safety Committee, 28 May to 6 June, London, United Kingdom;

(d) The organization's representative attended the seventy-sixth session of the IMO Legal Committee, 13–17 October, London, United Kingdom.

Cooperation with United Nations programmes and bodies and specialized agencies

1996: the organization assisted the UNCTAD Ports Section in drafting Monograph No. 13 entitled "Freeport development: the Mauritius experience", and Monograph No. 14, entitled "Sustainable development strategies for cities and ports", both of which were published in 1996.

Other relevant activities

1994: the organization's Legal Counsellor published in its journal his report on the activities of the United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development during 1993 and of the results of the Commission's session, 16–27 May 1994, in New York, emphasizing the importance of the Commission's role in follow-up on the fulfilment of Agenda 21 adopted at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (Rio de Janeiro, 1992).

4. International Association of Schools of Social Work

(Special consultative status granted 1947)

Aims and purposes

The International Association of Schools of Social Work (IASSW) has a mission statement which subscribes and is fully committed to upholding the United Nations declarations, conventions and protocols on human rights. The purpose of IASSW is to further social work, promote the development of social work education and to assist educators to exchange and develop improved and responsive programmes of study and research. IASSW cooperation with allied non-governmental organizations and United Nations agencies; the conducting of congresses, seminars and workshops based on individual members' research and curriculum developments; and the publication of reports, books and other literature, a newsletter and a journal are some of the means used to fulfil these aims. IASSW is also in the midst of creating its own Web site.

The period encompassed by the present report was dominated in its early days by the restructuring of IASSW, following the closure of its international office in Vienna and the dismissal of its paid staff, and its conversion into a body that is administered by its Officers, who now work on a voluntary basis from their respective universities. This arrangement was confirmed by the Board of Directors and the General Assembly of members in Amsterdam in July 1994 when a new constitution was approved. There is now no Secretary-General. Moreover, many activities have been devolved to regional level and take place in member schools. Communications to IASSW should be sent to the President.

Membership has continued to rise. Countries that have had no social work education for political or ideological reasons, such as those in Eastern Europe, East Asia, West Asia and North Africa, have begun to create new schools and have continued to seek the advice and support of IASSW and its member schools. There are now over 1,700 schools of social work at tertiary level throughout the world. These have been compiled in the IASSW Directory.

Affiliations to international non-governmental organizations during this period include the Save the Children Fund (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland), Misereor (Germany), Caritas International and the International Red Cross.

Participation in the Economic and Social Council

IASSW has continued supporting the activities of the Economic and Social Council, particularly those relating to the World Summit for Social Development in Copenhagen in March 1995; and the Beijing Fourth World Conference on Women in 1995. We continue to work on the follow-up to these conferences with other international non-governmental organizations, particularly the International Council on Social Welfare and the International

Federation of Social Workers. Follow-up events on social development in which we participated included a conference in China, Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (SAR) in 1996, another in Paris in 1998 and another in Montreal in 2000. In respect of women, these occurred in China, Hong Kong SAR in 1996 and New York in 1997. Additionally, we have been active in planning and executing activities related to the International Year of Older Persons. These efforts will reach full fruition next year. We are also involved in sponsoring activities associated with the follow-up to the International Conference on Population and Development.

United Nations agency cooperation

Much of the work in this area has been taking place at regional level and within member schools and has included the World Health Organization (WHO), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the World Bank and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). Their activities have encompassed dealing with the problems of refugees in Bosnia, and victims in areas of natural disasters, and research into all of the social problems associated with poverty, unemployment, substance abuse, health and mental health problems, criminal behaviour and sexual violence against children. Additionally, curriculum development has occurred in a number of these areas.

The President has been involved in making contributions to the international non-governmental organization forums that have been working on women's issues, anti-racist issues and social development issues. She has also attended United Nations seminars centring around anti-racism and migrants in Geneva.

The IASSW representatives at the non-governmental organization Unit at the United Nations in New York are particularly active in women's issues and children's rights issues. They have also been very involved in the planning and execution of the annual Social Work Day.

Other relevant activities

Each of the five regions of IASSW has its own links with United Nations agencies. For example, the Asia-Pacific region has been active in the work of UNDP and the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP). Our schools in the Africa region have been actively involved with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank on structural adjustment issues. The Latin America region has been involved in matters connected with the United Nations Conference on Environment Development (Rio Earth Summit) on environmental issues. Poverty alleviation measures have also been part of their remit. The European region has been active in the European Community and Council of Europe and their support of United Nations initiatives. The North American region has been supporting a range of activities centring around migration, acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS), children's rights and countering domestic violence.

The President and the United Nations representatives in New York are the main points of contact with officials of the United Nations Secretariat. The United Nations representatives in New York have prepared papers and other documents as required in the promotion of United Nations activities. They have also attended United Nations events in New York and meet regularly with United Nations officials.

5. International Council of Women

(Special consultative status granted 1947)

Aims and purposes

According to its Constitution, the International Council of Women (ICW), founded in 1888, aims to unite women of all nations, races, religions or cultural traditions for a common action to promote equality between women and men, promote development and work in favour of achieving peace through the peaceful resolutions of conflicts.

ICW was already in relationship with the League of Nations and was one of the international organizations in the first group of 39 accepted into non-governmental consultative status with the Economic and Social Council in 1947. It was promoted to general consultative status in 1969. Moreover the International Council of Women was admitted in special relationship with the International Labour Organization (ILO) as early as 1960.

Through its international network, the ICW is able to offer a well-adapted structure for the dissemination of information, ideas and decisions adopted by the different bodies of the United Nations. ICW is currently engaged in mainstreaming the gender issues in all spheres of human activities.

Composition

At present, the International Council of Women is composed of 78 National Councils of Women, in the same number of States (since ICW's last report in 1992, new Councils were affiliated to ICW) and all their Constitutions are based on the same principles. Before affiliation is granted, those national Councils have to show their will to adhere to those principles to also be representative of all the women of this country. This commitment is not always an easy one; the National Council of South Africa, whose women joined ICW in 1913, had to fight to maintain its pluriracial nature until apartheid was dismantled. Now the National Council is mainstreaming the gender issues brought forth by the change of system.

Participation in United Nations summits, conferences, meetings, commissions

ICW is conscious of the privilege of being in relationship with the Economic and Social Council and the United Nations system, which are the sole institutions empowered to keep peace in the world and without peace no progress will ever be possible.

ICW presents an efficient network ready to disseminate the resolutions, decisions and other texts adopted by the United Nations and, on the other hand, ICW is able to bring to the public attention the voices of weaker women's groups which have not at their disposal the means to making their voices heard.

ICW is following with the greatest interest the progress of the peaceful revolution bringing women to the same level as men.

To implement this objective, ICW is appointing a network of accredited representatives to the Economic and Social Council and the United Nations specialized agencies and bodies.

Representatives are also active with the regional commissions in Europe, Asia and the Pacific, and Latin America and the Caribbean.

ICW-accredited representatives are working on a voluntary basis and support their own expenses. At present, six persons are accredited in New York, five in Geneva, one for the World Health Organization (WHO), four in Paris, two in Vienna, two in Bangkok, one in Rome and one in Santiago de Chile. The reports of ICW representatives are disseminated by the General Secretariat to all National Councils of Women and to the Standing Committees set up to study the various items of the Status of Women. Those subjects are always in accordance with the priorities set up by the United Nations.

A system of Standing Committees was created in 1888 to follow and study matters related to the status of women. This system has just been restructured in order to be more closely associated with the new developments in the United Nations policies in the following areas:

(a) Status of women, legislation, implementation of conventions, human rights, international relations and peace, safety, well-being, education;

(b) Sustainable development: economy, consumers, women's labour, rural and urban women;

(c) General well-being: health, environment, habitat, nutrition;

(d) Communication: education, mass media, arts and letters, music;

(e) Social affairs: child and family, youth, ageing, migrations.

Activities

The ICW representatives have taken part in all major Conferences organized by the United Nations before the end of this century; and, of course, in the Fourth World Conference on Women, held in Beijing in September 1995. Participation was as follows:

(a) Attendance at all the regular sessions of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women in New York. At each session, the successive ICW Presidents made oral statements;

(b) Attendance at all the regular sessions of the Commission on Human Rights in Geneva, in 1994, 1995, 1996, 1997 and 1998. ICW co-signed the written and oral statements prepared by women's non-governmental organizations;

(c) Attendance at all regular sessions of the Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities in Geneva, in 1994, 1995, 1996, 1997 and 1998. ICW co-signed statements on women's human rights;

(d) Attendance at all regular meetings of WHO in Geneva;

(e) Attendance at all regular conferences of the International Labour Organization (1994, 1995, 1996, 1997);

(f) Attendance at the World Summit for Social Development, Copenhagen (1995);

(g) Attendance at the Cairo International Conference on Population and Development;

(h) Attendance at the Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing, 1995. ICW was represented by the President and the New York team and a statement was issued by the ICW President, stressing the need to focus more strongly on the respect for human rights for women and on the necessity for strengthening the governmental and non-governmental partnership in the evaluation process of development policies;

(i) Attendance at the twenty-eighth and twenty-ninth sessions of the General Conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) (Paris, 1995 and 1997);

(j) Attendance at the International Conference for Sustainable Growth and Equity, organized by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD);

(k) Attendance at the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), in Istanbul, 1996;

(l) Attendance at the World Food Summit, Rome 1996. On this occasion, ICW presented a statement recalling the importance of respecting the CEDAW stipulations for women and the girl child;

(m) Attendance at the seventh session of the General Conference of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) in Vienna.

Information on issues within the competence of all the above-mentioned agencies that was relevant to the work of ICW was sent to all its affiliates.

ICW is also working closely with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) in New York and Geneva. Representatives are accredited at both headquarters.

ICW was involved in the big "Forum" organized together with the above-mentioned world conferences, especially in Beijing for the Fourth World Conference on Women, in Istanbul for Habitat II and in Rome for the World Food Summit, where ICW took the lead of the Women's Caucus.

Since its foundation in 1888, environmental problems are a sensitive subject for ICW which is closely monitoring "sustainable water management", and conservation of vegetal and animal species, by the dissemination of relevant information and establishment of data.

ICW is taking part in the various activities of non-governmental organizations which are held in parallel with the United Nations expert commissions, namely the Commission on the Status of Women, first in Vienna then in New York; the Commission on Human Rights and its Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and the Protection of Minorities, in Geneva; as well as the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) in Rome; and WHO in Geneva. Moreover, ICW was present at the different briefings organized by the United Nations for the non-governmental organization community.

ICW is strongly in favour of the creation of an International Criminal Court, empowered to judge the crimes committed during the genocide perpetrated in the region of the Great Lakes region of Africa, and especially the crimes committed against women and children.

During its last Triennial Statutory General Assembly, held in Ottawa in June 1977, ICW looked towards the third millennium with the will to see the end of the system of exclusion under which too many women in the world are still suffering; and, together with other sister organizations, to continue the task of working towards common aims: equality for all human beings.

Regional activities

Over the last 30 years, ICW has organized many regional seminars and workshops worldwide on a variety of subjects, in cooperation with its national affiliates. Most recent venues have included Arusha (1997), Barbados (April 1998), on health and well-being,

Germany (January–February 1998) on peace maintenance, Budapest (April 1998) on women in careers and public life.

A seminar on "Women's Leadership: Help Women Help Themselves" is in preparation for October 1998 in Israel.

ICW also made an active contribution to the various women's days, and ageing and disarmament events, to quote the most important. At National Council level, there was active support for the celebration of the fiftieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

In order to work in accordance with the United Nations system, four regional groupings of National Councils have been set up:

(a) In Europe, the ECICW (European Centre of ICW) has consultative status with the Council of Europe and has a leading role among non-governmental organizations there. It is a founder of the European Women's Lobby and is represented on its Board. The ECICW President is a member of the European Parliament. All legislation relating to equality of opportunity for women and men is closely studied and monitored and recommendations are made to the European Commission;

(b) In the Americas (the "ARC");

In Asia and the Pacific;

In Africa.

The four groups are holding regular meetings to discuss their own problems and report back to the triennial Statutory General Assembly.

Other relevant activities

Many of our National Councils are extremely active and valuable in increasing status and opportunities for women in their own countries. ICW acts as a powerful medium in relaying to them the issues of greatest current concern to the United Nations and encouraging them to give the issues priority.

ICW has set up a system of small development projects organized by women, for women and with the help of women. A special fund has been created to receive donations enabling local women's associations to initiate other relevant activities aimed at improving the life of their communities, for example, with better food and nutrition, water supplies and schooling, or through creating small income-generating projects.

In the same field of action, ICW is cooperating with five sister organizations called the "FIVE O", to help implement more ambitious projects.

As a follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women, ICW contributed to the production of a film, *Laruan*, aiming at fighting trafficking in women and children. Funding and/or support were provided for this special action by:

(a) At the United Nations: United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), UNICEF, WHO, ILO;

(b) Other sources: King Baudouin Foundation, The African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States and member States of the Lomé Convention.

ICW is publishing a quarterly Newsletter for internal distribution.

6. International Road Federation

(Special consultative status granted 1951)

About the International Road Federation

The International Road Federation (IRF) is a not-for-profit, non-political service organization, its purpose and continuing objective are to encourage better road and transportation systems worldwide and to help apply technology and management practices that will give maximum economic and social returns from national road investments.

IRF was founded following the Second World War by business and industrial leaders who recognized the need for an international organization to focus on the growing economic and social importance of good road networks and to help rehabilitate Europe's road systems damaged in the war. Over the years, the IRF has led major global road infrastructure developments including achieving 1,000 kilometres (km) of new roads in Mexico in the 1950s, promoting the Pan-American Highway linking North and South America and launching its landmark publication *World Road Statistics*, as well as undertaking road research studies, including a 140-country inventory of road and transport research in cooperation with the United States bureau of public roads.

Today IRF is the international point of affiliation for about 600 member companies, associations and Governments worldwide which assist and support the dual offices in Washington, D.C., United States of America, and Geneva, Switzerland. IRF's mission is to promote road development as a key factor in economic and social growth, to provide Governments and financial institutions with professional ideas and expertise, to put members in touch with each other so as to facilitate business exchange, to establish links between IRF members and various external institutions and agencies, to provide support for national road federations and to give information to professional groups that build road infrastructure.

IRF carries out its mission through six major international programmes

These programmes are:

(a) Transnational road development: Advanced Integrated Motorway System for Europe (AIMSE) II, Silk Roads, African Highways;

(b) Education: the IRF Fellowship Programme;

(c) Training: executive conferences and videotape training;

(d) IRF advocacy and external activities: lobbying the European Union (EU) and its institutions for improved road investment and development, working with Governments in Latin America to achieve major road reform, participating in road industry events such as Intertraffic, Bauma and Samoter and cooperating with the United Nations and other international bodies to promote road development;

(e) Meetings, conferences and symposia:

(i) 2001: Fourteenth IRF World Meeting, Paris, France;

(ii) 1999: IRF European Regional Meeting, Lahti, Finland;

(iii) 1998: IRF Silk Roads Conference, Ashkabad, Turkmenistan; Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) in Latin America, Buenos Aires, Argentina;

(iv) 1997: Thirteenth IRF World Meeting, Toronto, Canada; Russian Road Pavement and Finance Seminar, Moscow;

(f) Products and publications: *RoadEx* — a new/used road equipment exchange on the Internet; *World Road Statistics*; *Motorway Data Bank for Europe*; *European Road Sign Inventories*; and a variety of information publications.

IRF members by category

Associations, trade and sectoral organizations	40
Construction equipment distributors	8
Construction equipment manufacturers: machinery	245
Consulting engineering and management services	71
Contracting: road building	65
Educational and research institutions	27
Governmental organizations	50
Highway systems technology	7
Miscellaneous	3
Motor vehicle manufacturers	5
National road associations	38
Oil and bitumen industry	4
Publications	11
Road construction materials manufacturers	16
Road infrastructure operators	8
Traffic and safety devices	29
Tyre and automotive accessories manufacturers	6

IRF programme highlights: road development

AIMSE II: helping the EU to advance transnational motorways

The IRF's AIMSE (Advanced Integrated Motorway System for Europe) projects have had two phases. The first project, AIMSE, a comprehensive proposal for a mostly private sector-funded and -developed trans-European motorway network to be completed within the EU's Trans-European Road Network (TERN), was completed in 1990.

The follow-up AIMSE II was started in 1994 and launched in 1995. Together, TERN and AIMSE II aim to modernize 43,000 km of EU motorways and add 15,000 km of new links, creating an advanced user- and environment-friendly, integrated system. Major European companies are purchasing shares in a consulting company, European Economic Interest Group (EEIG), which will develop realistic traffic forecasts, integrate the TERN master plan and identify motorway sections that could be built by the private sector on the basis of the "user pays" concept.

Silk Roads: the IRF revitalizes ancient road trading routes linking Europe and China

The IRF has developed a multi-year programme to revitalize the ancient Silk Roads Europe-China trading routes which linked what are now the Asian republics of Turkmenistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan and Tajikistan, with Turkey, the Islamic Republic of Iran and western China.

In modern times, the roads have largely become impassable and since independence in 1990, the republics have been unable to trade freely with their neighbours. This has reduced inter-republic trade by as much as 79 per cent and left little funding for infrastructure maintenance. The IRF programme, started in 1996, includes: publishing information on all agencies active in the region, a major IRF international Silk Roads

infrastructure conference in Turkmenistan in April of 1998, publishing road traffic data and conference proceedings, creating an IRF regional training programme for road professionals and proposing private sector consortia to undertake new road development along the routes.

The IRF African Road Data Bank: relaunching road development in Africa

In cooperation with the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), IRF is developing a new African Road Data Bank of detailed information on all projects including location, traffic levels and costs. The project will be a key road development tool, since lack of data has been a major constraint to obtaining road investment funds. In 1997, after submitting a project profile to potential African and international donors for financial support, IRF and ECA are awaiting positive replies.

Education

The Fellowship Programme

Every year, IRF provides university scholarships for graduate engineers and transportation managers. Since 1949, 1,042 Fellows from 108 countries have participated, attending 78 universities in the United States, Canada and Europe. Graduates are highly skilled and exert a strong influence on the orderly development of worldwide transportation systems. The 1996/97 Fellowship Class included 26 Fellows from 12 countries: Argentina, Barbados, China, Estonia, Japan, Mexico, Morocco, Pakistan, China, South Africa, Swaziland and the United States.

Training

IRF Executive Conferences

IRF Executive Conferences are one- to two-week short courses for senior road professionals on a specific road-related subject. The classroom-style courses emphasize brainstorming and hands-on training. Speakers include university professors, bank officials, and experts from various disciplines, as well as IRF member firms. IRF holds four Executive Conferences per year. The 1998 line-up included: Urban Traffic Congestion and the Environment, Road Asset Management, Contract Maintenance and Road Safety.

IRF videos: practical lessons in road skills

Since 1994, IRF has continued work on expanding and updating its video training library of over 11,000 broadcast quality videotapes in eight languages (English, French, Spanish, Portuguese, Russian, Arabic, Turkish and Chinese). Over the past four years, IRF has produced new tapes and translated dozens of others into several languages.

The IRF video training library offers complete technical training on: road maintenance, equipment maintenance and operation, construction inspection, cement and concrete testing, traffic control, job site safety, highway safety, contract maintenance, highway management systems, equipment management systems, construction management systems, low volume roads and technology transfer.

IRF products and publications

World Road Statistics

Produced annually and prepared in close cooperation with statistical offices in some 200 countries, *World Road Statistics* offers global information on: road networks and traffic; accidents; vehicle use, production and export; fuels; rates and basis of user taxes; and

examples of average annual taxation, as well as overall road expenditure. The 1998 edition contains added data including illustrative graphs and maps.

Motorway Data Bank for Europe

The first edition of the IRF *Motorway Data Bank for Europe* was produced in 1994, followed by a second edition in 1995. It contains more than 300 pages of detailed tables, maps and graphs, providing pan-European information on current and future motorway sections on a country-by-country basis. It shows level of traffic volumes, number of lanes, road ownership, and charging and planning priorities.

Prepared in cooperation with the Traffic Technical Institute of the University of Ljubljana in Slovenia, the standard version comes with ACCESS and EXCEL diskettes, allowing users to make personalized queries of the tables. The Data Bank is also available as a geographical information system (GIS), providing electronic map simulations and complete software and training manuals.

RoadEx

Created in 1998, *RoadEx* is the IRF's new Internet platform for the buying and selling of used equipment by road equipment manufacturers. Many European road construction companies have often used equipment for sale, but may not know of opportunities where it can be sold or leased in another region. The globalization of business and the possibility of doing business on the Internet resulted in IRF and the Urban Mobility Network Group (UMN) creating *RoadEx*, a Road Trade Exchange platform on the Internet for road construction professionals and, in particular, for IRF members in Europe. By subscribing to *RoadEx*, suppliers can offer their used road equipment on a worldwide scale, while buyers have a central location where used equipment is easily accessible, cost-effective and user-friendly.

Participation in United Nations activities

IRF and ECA

In 1996, IRF and ECA signed a joint Cooperation Agreement, under which the two are pursuing a number of activities including the organization of international road and transport conferences and the compilation and production of an African Road Data Bank. The first joint IRF-ECA Conference was held in Johannesburg, South Africa, in 1995. Since then, IRF has participated in a ECA conference in Ghana in 1997 and additional joint conferences are being planned.

ECE

IRF regularly participates in meetings of the ECE's Inland Transport Committee, as well as the Trans-European Motorways (TEM) project.

ESCAP

The IRF is cooperating with the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) in the promotion of road development, particularly in Central Asia through the IRF Silk Roads Programme.

7. International Union of Socialist Youth

(Special consultative status granted 1951)

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Aims and purposes

The International Union of Socialist Youth (IUSY) is the union allied with the Socialist International in the international labour movement, which brings together democratic socialist youth and student organizations in their fight for socialism, democracy and internationalism.

IUSY aims at realizing democratic socialist ideas, such as are expressed in the Declaration of Principles. In this respect, the primary task of IUSY is to build ever-stronger solidarity among all young socialists in the world, thus making cooperation, common mobilization and success for socialism possible.

IUSY serves the youth through its member organizations by:

(a) Gathering members for common understanding and learning in order to develop policies and forceful actions;

(b) Representing the global socialist youth movement with respect to international associations and intergovernmental bodies, on the basis of the Declaration of Principles and decisions taken by IUSY bodies;

(c) Organizing joint activities and information exchanges to promote and develop the political and social work of member organizations.

IUSY was founded on 24 August 1907. During the two World Wars, its activities were suspended and it was re-established under its current name on 30 September 1946. In 1998, IUSY is made up of 132 socialist, social democratic and labour youth organizations from 100 countries around the world. The goal of our international is to put into practice and defend the ideals of democratic socialism.

Participation in the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies and/or conferences

General contribution towards the United Nations and its work with youth-related issues

IUSY tried to make a contribution towards the elaboration of the World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond. For instance, IUSY presented a policy paper on IUSY and the United Nations to the "Youth Unit of the United Nations Secretariat" and the United Nations in general on 24 September 1994. On several occasions, IUSY has documented our disappointment at the lack of opportunity that youth non-governmental organizations actually had to influence the World Youth Programme of Action. IUSY also made efforts to encourage other youth non-governmental organizations to submit

amendments and comments to the programme. This was done even though IUSY considered the initial draft that was sent out for consultation as being rather "vague, politically watered-out and technical" (internal report from the non-governmental youth consultation at United Nations Headquarters, New York, 26 and 27 September 1994).

IUSY was also actively involved in the attempts to observe the tenth anniversary of the International Youth Year in 1995:

(a) Among other things, IUSY worked for a World Youth Forum to be celebrated in 1995;

(b) IUSY also encouraged its member organizations to lobby their Governments to send a youth delegate to the United Nations General Assembly in 1995;

(c) IUSY gave advice to its member organizations on how they could help make the celebration of the fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations in their different countries focused on youth.

Participation in activities organized by the Subprogramme on Youth Policies and Programmes, at the Division for Social Policy and Development, Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development

As one of the largest youth organizations in the world, IUSY has worked closely with different United Nations agencies on youth issues, specifically with the so-called Youth Unit, that is to say, the Youth Policies and Programme Unit, at the Division for Social Policy and Development, Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development.

IUSY participated at least at the following meetings organized by the Youth Unit:

(a) Non-governmental youth consultation at the United Nations Headquarters, New York, 26 and 27 September 1994;

(b) As a member of the Planning Committee, all preparatory meetings towards the second session of the World Youth Forum of the United Nations System which was held in Vienna, Austria, in November 1996 (for instance, from 17 to 19 July in New York);

(c) As a member of the Preparatory Team, all preparatory meetings towards the third session of the "World Youth Forum of the United Nations System", which was held in Braga, Portugal, from 2 to 8 August 1998;

(d) World Youth Summit at the World Summit for Social Development in Copenhagen, Denmark, 3–5 March 1995.

Participation in other United Nations world meetings and conferences

In addition, in the period 1994–1997, IUSY participated at least at the following meetings/conferences organized by the United Nations:

(a) Conference on Population and Development in Cairo, Egypt, in 1994;

(b) World Summit for Social Development in Copenhagen, Denmark, March 1995;

(c) Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing, China, in 1995.

8. World Blind Union

(Special consultative status granted 1984)

Introduction

The World Blind Union (WBU) is a coalition of organizations of and for blind people, which exists to actively promote the full participation and equalization of opportunity of blind people in society. WBU seeks to coordinate international activities concerning blind people, to assure the human rights of blind people, and to promote studies and pilot projects of innovation in service delivery or peer support. WBU is changing what it means to be blind through the power of the dream. It has member organizations in virtually every country of the world. According to our latest membership list, we have 154 member countries. These member countries have their own regional groups for Africa, Asia, Europe, Latin America, the Middle East, North America and the Caribbean, and East Asia and the Pacific.

Interaction with the United Nations

WBU maintains official relations with the following United Nations agencies: the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the World Health Organization (WHO), the International Labour Organization (ILO), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO); seeks to interact positively with those bodies to ensure their support in pursuance of our main objectives; and makes an effort to assist in the accomplishment of United Nations goals by promoting activities aimed at securing equal opportunities for the persons we represent.

Involvement in the United Nations Decade of Disabled Persons in Asia and the Pacific

WBU leaders, international and regional ones, have been very much involved in all the initiatives that have been taken relating to the implementation of the Asia and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons. We participated very actively in the conference to launch this Decade held in Beijing. Our regional representatives are involved in the task force set up by the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) in Bangkok.

Standard Rules on the Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities

Although the World Blind Union would have preferred the adoption of a convention prohibiting all kinds of discrimination based on disability, we participated very actively in all the initiatives to implement the Standard Rules on the Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities. Two WBU representatives were actively involved in the Panel of Experts working with the Special Rapporteur on Disability of the Commission for Social Development. We prepared a User's Guide concerning the Standard Rules, and the text of the User's Guide and the Standard Rules themselves are distributed to the people who specifically request them.

Human rights

In 1993, WBU formed a new standing committee, the Committee on Human Rights, and, in the period under review, that Committee has been very active in examining general issues, and in dealing with specific visual impairment-based violations of human rights. For instance, in 1995 we successfully intervened in Thailand in ensuring that blind and

visually impaired students would be admitted in universities without any barriers. In August 1995, in Lima, Peru, there was convened the second Latin American Conference on Human Rights of Blind Persons. Conclusions of that conference were published in our magazine, *The World Blind*.

Rehabilitation

The World Blind Union, through its Ad Hoc Committee on Rehabilitation and Employment, organized in November 1994 a World Forum on Rehabilitation of Blind and Visually Impaired People in Jomtien, Thailand. The report issued by that Forum is being widely circulated.

Organizational development

The World Blind Union, in full compliance with the leading role which is assigned to organizations of people with disabilities in the United Nations Standard Rules, continued to work intensively in organizational development. Our Institutional Development Project continued to act very successfully, mainly in Africa, in countries such as Uganda, Ghana, the Gambia, South Africa, Kenya and the United Republic of Tanzania.

Now we are trying to supplement that activity by promoting actions in specific linguistic areas such as those of the French-speaking countries, the Portuguese-speaking countries, the family of Turkish-speaking countries and so on.

Disadvantaged groups

During the period under review, the World Blind Union continued to develop strategies to attend more appropriately to the special needs of disadvantaged groups encompassing the spectrum of blindness such as youth, blind women, the elderly and the multiply handicapped.

Equality at all levels of blind women is our ongoing priority, and regional blind women conferences were held in Latin America in May 1994, in Africa in October 1994, in the East Asia and Pacific region in April 1995, in the Middle East in October 1995, and in Europe in June 1996. Prior to the Fourth General Assembly of the World Blind Union held in Toronto, Canada, from 26 to 30 August 1996, WBU organized a World Forum on Blind Women.

The World Blind Union has now a Standing Committee on Blindness and Ageing, which, initially, was a special task force created in 1995.

9. World Federation of the Deaf

(Special consultative status granted 1959)

Introduction

The World Federation of the Deaf (WFD) is the peak international non-governmental organization for deaf people, representing approximately 70 million people worldwide. Membership comprises national organizations of deaf people in 120 countries (an increase from 93 at the end of 1993); and associate, international and individual members. In addition, WFD has seven (increased from four at the end of 1993) Regional Secretariat offices in

various regions throughout the world, and a Cooperation Partner in the European Union (EU) countries.

In accordance with the principles and objectives of the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the Standard Rules on the Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities, and other general acts and recommendations of the United Nations and its specialized agencies, WFD develops its activities towards the goal of equalization of opportunities for, and full participation in society by, deaf individuals. WFD works for human rights, equal education and the advancement of opportunity for deaf people everywhere.

At the present time, WFD's priorities are:

(a) The human rights of deaf people and the abolition of discrimination against deaf communities and sign languages;

(b) Deaf education;

(c) Strengthening associations of deaf people, and assisting in the establishment of associations where none currently exist;

(d) Strengthening regional work and cooperation.

The overall priority is given to deaf people in the developing world.

Cooperation with the Economic and Social Council

The Director of the WFD Regional Secretariat for Asia and the Pacific attended the Second Regional NGO Network for the Promotion of the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons (20–22 July 1994) organized by the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) in the Philippines.

The then President of WFD attended the Meeting of International Organisations of People with Disabilities on 20 August 1994, in New York, United States of America.

WFD has been involved in the Panel of Experts to the Special Rapporteur on the Standard Rules on the Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities since its inaugural meeting (15–17 February 1995). WFD representatives (from Finland and Malaysia) attended all meetings of the Panel of Experts from 1995 through 1997, and all United Nations meetings in which the Panel of Experts participated. In addition, WFD prepared and disseminated to all member organizations guidelines on the use of the Standard Rules; this document was translated into all United Nations languages and a copy of the Standerd Rules in the relevant language was also included in the mail-out.

WFD was involved in the preparatory meetings for the World Summit for Social Development, and was well represented at the Summit itself (6–12 March 1995). Representatives also participated in an NGO Forum and an International NGO Conference on Disability (3 March 1995) and other meetings held during the Summit.

Four representatives attended the Fourth World Conference on Women, 4–15 September 1995, in Beijing, China.

Information about deaf people and sign language was provided to the United Nations Clearing-House Database on Disability.

The General Secretary contributed information on deaf people and their needs to the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Assistive Technology Project.

Cooperation with United Nations programmes, bodies and specialized agencies

A WFD representative attended the First United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Regional Consultation of International NGOs in Asia and the Pacific in Hanoi, Viet Nam, 7–11 March 1994.

A WFD Expert attended the Twenty-Eighth Council for International Organizations of Medical Sciences (CIOMS) Conference entitled "Vulnerability, the Value of Human Life, and the Emergence of Bioethics" in Mexico, 17–20 April 1994.

A WFD Expert attended the World Conference on Special Needs in Education entitled "Access and Quality" in Salamanca, Spain, 7–10 June 1994. This Expert ensured that the needs of deaf children were included in the document resulting from this Conference, entitled "The Salamanca Statement and Framework for Action on Special Needs Education".

The then General Secretary of WFD met with World Health Organization (WHO) representatives to draw up a Work Plan for Cooperation in Geneva, Switzerland, on 1 November 1994. This Work Plan was followed during that General Secretary's term.

The then General Secretary of WFD attended the International Labour Organization (ILO) Meeting of the Global Network of Research Centres on Disability and Employment in Geneva, Switzerland, 6–8 February 1995.

The General Secretary attended part of the ninety-ninth session of the WHO Executive Board, 13–24 January 1997, in Geneva, Switzerland.

A WFD Expert made a presentation at the Global Workshop on Children with Disabilities in Developing Countries, 5–7 February 1997, in Washington, D.C., United States of America.

The General Secretary attended the CIOMS International Conference on "Ethics, Equity and the Renewal of WHO's Health for All Strategy", 12–14 March 1997, in Geneva, Switzerland.

Several representatives attended the UNESCO-sponsored International Conference on Adult Education in Hamburg, Germany, 14–18 July 1997. These representatives contributed to the final Report and Recommendations from this Conference.

The President made a presentation at the WHO Regional Meeting in Moscow, Russian Federation, September 1997.

The General Secretary attended several days of the twenty-ninth General Conference of UNESCO in Paris, France, in October 1997.

Additional relevant activities

In 1994, WFD published its *Manual on How to Establish and Run an Organization of the Deaf*, which is partially based on the Economic and Social Council's *Self-Help Organizations of Disabled Persons* (1991). The *Manual* specifically aims to help deaf persons establish and strengthen their organizations and work. Financial assistance for translation was received from a United Nations voluntary fund.

In 1995, WFD prepared the "WFD Guidelines on How to Use the Salamanca Statement" for member organizations, and disseminated this along with copies of "The Salamanca Statement and Framework for Action on Special Needs Education" in all United Nations languages.

In 1995, WFD produced a video entitled "With Knowledge, Will and Emotion Towards Human Rights". This video focuses on the history and work of WFD, and includes a section about cooperation with the Economic and Social Council and other United Nations bodies.

The General Secretary gave a presentation about the Commission on the Status of Women and its programmes at the first Finnish Deaf Women's Conference in October 1996.

WFD, through its magazine *WFD NEWS* and Members' Circulars, has regularly sent out information about and from the United Nations to its members, and has encouraged their participation on a local level. WFD observes United Nations days and weeks, and encourages all members to also do so.

10. World Organization of the Scout Movement

(General consultative status granted 1947)

The Scout Movement is a voluntary, non-political, non-formal, educational movement for young people open to all, in accordance with the purpose, principles and method conceived by the Founder, Robert Baden-Powell in 1907. The World Organization of the Scout Movement (WOSM) is an international, non-governmental organization composed of its recognized national Scout organizations. Its first General Assembly was held in Paris, in July 1922. Since 1993, 17 new countries have been admitted to WOSM. At the end of 1997, there were 148 countries with internationally recognized national Scout organizations.

United Nations activities in which WOSM has participated

1994:

(a) United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF): child health, signature by James Grant and Jacques Moreillon, in Geneva, of an agreement of cooperation between WOSM and UNICEF on Scouting's involvement in the world oral rehydration therapy (ORT) campaign;

(b) United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA): Third World Conference on Population, Cairo: active participation of Scout delegates. In conjunction with the conference, WOSM coordinated a youth consultation at the Cairo International Scout Centre, involving 110 young people from 60 countries;*

(c) International Bureau of Education (IBE) International Conference on Education, Geneva: WOSM is one of the few international non-governmental youth organizations to participate actively in this biennial meeting of ministers of education. Paper by WOSM (prepared by CEPRODOC) on the subject of *Scouting and Non-Formal Education*.

1995:

(a) United Nations: World Summit for Social Development, Copenhagen: WOSM played an active role in this summit and in running the youth consultation organized by the World Assembly of Youth (WAY) on the model of the Cairo consultation;*

(b) United Nations: Commission on Narcotic Drugs: WOSM's representative in Vienna participated actively in the thirty-eighth session of this Commission;

* Activity and/or WOSM participation partially or totally funded by the United Nations.

(c) United Nations: Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice: WOSM's representative in Vienna participated actively in the fourth session of this Commission, notably in the discussion on child victims of crime and child criminals;

(d) United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) World Forum on the Dialogue of Cultures, Tbilisi: WOSM played an active role in this high-level forum at the express invitation of the Director-General of UNESCO, Mr. Federico Mayor, and the President of the Republic of Georgia, Mr. Eduard Shevardnadze. WOSM paper (prepared by CEPRODOC) on the subject of "Youth education for the dialogue of cultures";*

(e) United Nations: Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing: WOSM was represented by World Scout Committee member Jocelyne Gendrin, and Debbie Ladds of The Scout Association (United Kingdom); in 1994, WOSM took part in the preparatory forum of international non-governmental organizations at the United Nations Office at Vienna;

(f) UNICEF: James Grant Memorial Service: WOSM's representative was in the first row at the memorial service at the New York cathedral. After the service, he met United Nations top leaders, as well as the First Lady of the United States.

1996:

(a) Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO): World Food Summit, Rome: WOSM has been involved in the preparatory work for this Summit, which will take place in Rome in 1996, as it has done regularly since the first World Food Congress, organized by FAO in The Hague in 1970;

(b) United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) Second United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), Istanbul: WOSM was actively involved in the work of the conference, co-organized an international youth consultation with WAY, assisted with the preparation of the UNESCO youth day and took part in the Habitat-Health dialogue day organized by WHO;*

(c) UNICEF: ordinary meetings of the Executive Bureau, New York: WOSM's representative took part in the second ordinary meeting of the year, which focused on the countries of Central and Eastern Europe, as well as the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS);

(d) World Health Organization (WHO) Drug Prevention Programme: WSB presented contributions from WOSM member associations in this field (drug, alcohol and tobacco prevention) on the occasion of the 49th WHO World Health Assembly.

1997:

(a) WHO: International Conference on Health Promotion, Jakarta: WOSM was involved in the preparatory meetings;

(b) FAO: World Congress on Forestry, Antalya: WOSM was actively involved in the Congress;

(c) UNESCO Twenty-ninth Session of the General Conference, Paris: WOSM invited to address the Conference in plenary, participation in commissions on non-formal education;

* Activity and/or WOSM participation partially or totally funded by the United Nations.

(d) Economic and Social Council: Twentieth General Assembly of Conference of Non-Governmental Organizations in Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council (CONGO), Geneva: participation of WOSM.

WOSM activities in which the United Nations and its specialized agencies have been involved

1994:

(a) International Scout Symposium on partnership and solidarity, Marrakech: active participation (leadership of working groups, plenary discussions and so forth) of representatives of UNFPA, UNHCR, WHO, UNESCO and UNICEF;*

(b) Thirty-seventh Jamboree-on-the-Air: broadcast of a special message from UNICEF Executive Director James Grant, recorded in Geneva in May of the same year.

1995:

Global Development Village, eighteenth World Scout Jamboree, Netherlands: active participation (leadership of workshops, exhibits) of ILO, UNESCO, UNHCR, UNICEF, United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), WHO and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP);* signature at the Jamboree of a global cooperation agreement by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees , Mrs. Sadako Ogata, and the WOSM Secretary-General, Jacques Moreillon.

1996:

Global Development Village, nineteenth World Scout Jamboree, Chile: participation in the first Jamboree preparatory meeting, in Geneva, of representatives from ILO, Joint and Co-sponsored United Nations Programme on Human Immunodeficiency Virus/Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (HIV/AIDS) (UNAIDS), UNEP, UNESCO, UNFPA, UNHCR, UNICEF and WHO.*

Joint activities

1994:

(a) UNICEF: third meeting of the chief executive officers (CEOs) of international non-governmental organizations having supported the adoption of the Convention on the Rights of the Child. Geneva: WOSM co-chaired this meeting on the theme of "Youth for Lasting Peace";

(b) UNESCO: Participation in the twenty-fourth NGO Conference: election of WOSM to the bureau of the Committee; WOSM paper (prepared by CEPRODOC) on the subject of "Youth education for tolerance and peace";

(c) UNESCO: Regional International Non-Governmental Youth Organization Consultations: WOSM co-organized the consultations for Latin America, Africa and Asia. It was elected to the Bureau of the three consultations;*

(d) WHO: three seminars in Africa and Asia on adolescent reproductive health for non-governmental organization leaders.*

1995:

(a) UNESCO: Twentieth World Collective Consultation of International Non-Governmental Youth Organizations, Tokyo: WOSM co-chaired the consultation;*

* Activity and/or WOSM participation partially or totally funded by the United Nations.

(b) UNESCO: Twelfth Collective Consultation of International Non-Governmental Youth Organizations involved in literacy, Tokyo: WOSM co-chaired the meeting; WOSM intervention (prepared by CEPRODOC) on the subject of "Scouting's contribution to literacy and basic education"; WOSM paper (prepared by a consultant) on the "Role of INGYOs in basic education";*

(c) United Nations: coordination of international non-governmental youth organizations accredited with the United Nations Offices at Geneva, Nairobi, New York and Vienna: WOSM, via its permanent representatives, plays a leading role in these coordination bodies.

1996:

(a) UNESCO: preparation of the twenty-first World Collective Consultation of International Non-Governmental Youth Organizations, scheduled to take place at the Interamerican Scout Centre in Santiago, Chile, in April 1997;*

(b) United Nations: Paris meeting of the planning committee for the second session of the World Youth Forum of the United Nations System, scheduled to take place in Vienna in November 1996. WOSM has been an active member of this committee since 1996;*

(c) UNESCO: Twenty-fifth Non-Governmental Organization Conference: WOSM co-chaired this meeting, at which it completed its term of office on the Bureau.

1997:

(a) UNESCO: survey on youth perception of on-screen violence. A survey conducted in 20 countries by UNESCO and the University of Utrecht with the operational cooperation of WOSM;*

(b) WHO: Memorandum of Understanding signed between WHO and WOSM on the launching of an Action Programme for the Eradication of Leprosy, July, Geneva.

Fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations

1995:

(a) WOSM Secretary-General Jacques Moreillon travelled to New York to meet with Mrs. G. M. Sorensen, special adviser to the United Nations Secretary-General with responsibility for coordinating fiftieth anniversary activities. Two World Scout Bureau (WSB) members went to New York to ensure the follow-up to the agreements concluded at this meeting to mark the fiftieth anniversary;

(b) WOSM produced and mailed a special six-page brochure on Scouting and the Fiftieth Anniversary of the United Nations to all its members, providing information on the United Nations and ideas for Scout activities to celebrate the anniversary. This brochure contained a supplement on the main achievements of the United Nations since 1945, as well as a reproduction sheet for the logo created especially by WOSM, in agreement with the United Nations;

(c) United Nations: World Youth Forum organized by the city of Geneva and the United Nations Office at Geneva on the occasion of the fiftieth anniversary, involving 220 participants from 70 countries, including 34 Scouts; WOSM was one of the main organizers;*

(d) United Nations: WOSM's representatives in Geneva, New York and Vienna took part in the celebrations organized by the three United Nations offices;

* Activity and/or WOSM participation partially or totally funded by the United Nations.

(e) At the eighteenth World Scout Jamboree in the Netherlands, Scouting Nederland held a satellite conference with United Nations Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali, who was thereby able to talk with Scouts at the Jamboree; on that occasion, he remembered his own presence in Holland in 1937 as an Egyptian Scout at the fifth World Scout Jamboree.

1995–1996:

WOSM published several articles on the fiftieth anniversary in *World Scouting News*, notably on activities carried out by member associations (vols. 26 and 27).

Documents on/by the United Nations and its specialized agencies sent to WOSM members

Documents are as follows:

(a) 1993: WHO Health Education Award in the Area of Primary Health Care, circular 23/93;

(b) 1994: Scouting and the Fiftieth Anniversary of the United Nations, circular 14/94; "Follow-up activities to the International Consultation of INGYOs on population and development", circular 26/94;

(c) 1995: World Heath Day, circular 5/95; Oral Rehydration Therapy Kit,* circular 9/95; Passport for the Future, with letter from the United Nations, guidelines and brochure, circular 20/95; Scouting and Refugees, with the protocol agreement between UNHCR and WOSM, the video Learning Peace, poster and brochure, circular 28/95;

(d) 1996: Declaration of Principles on Tolerance, adopted by the twenty-eighth session of the General Conference of UNESCO, circular 11/96; Programme of World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond, adopted by the General Assembly on 14 December 1995, circular 20/96;

(e) 1997: Scouting Involvement in the Elimination of Leprosy, agreement with WHO, circular 22/97; The Education of Young People, address of WOSM Secretary-General to UNESCO General Conference, circular 30/97; "Scouts target land mines", *World Scouting Newsletter*, 29.3; "Update: scouting and refugees", *World Scouting Newsletter*, 29.1; "UNFPA essay contest", *World Scouting Newsletter*, 29.1; "Scouts help UNESCO study screen violence", *World Scouting Newsletter*, 28.6; "Scouting and community development: 24 years of cooperation with United Nations agencies", *World Scouting Newsletter*, 28.6.

Legal status of WOSM vis-à-vis the United Nations and its specialized agencies

ECOSOC	special consultative status since 1947; general consultative status in process
FAO	liaison status
UNHCR	official contact status; cooperation agreement signed in August 1995
ILO/IPEC	official contact status
World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)	protection of the WOSM emblem (Madrid Agreement) since 1989
WHO	consultative status since 1987

* Activity and/or WOSM participation partially or totally funded by the United Nations.

UNEP	official contact status
UNESCO	category B consultative status since 1970, category A since 1991. Consultation status in the new non-governmental organization classification since 1996
UNICEF	consultative status since 1983. WOSM chaired the NGO Standing Committee from 1985 to 1989. Specific agreement of cooperation (ORT) signed in May 1994

United Nations E/C.2/1999/2/Add.13

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Review of quadrennial reports submitted by non-governmental organizations in general and special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council

Quadrennial reports, 1994–1997, submitted through the Secretary-General pursuant to Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31

Note by the Secretary-General

Addendum

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* E/C.2/1999/1.

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1. American Society of International Law

(Special consultative status granted 1993)

When the American Society of International Law (ASIL) was founded in 1906 by Secretary of State Elihu Root, its purpose was to educate and engage the public in international law and to expand its frontiers as a vehicle for resolving disputes.

Through the years, ASIL's mission remains the same. But the world has changed. Today, international law affects not only government relations but also economics, trade, the environment, communications, transportation, health and human rights. It has become vital, not only to influential policymakers, leading academics, government officials and diplomats but also to attorneys, corporate decision makers, students and jurists located in towns large and small, across the country and throughout the world.

ASIL has approximately 4,000 individual members worldwide. Funding is based on membership, subscriptions, donations and interest from its deposits.

An ASIL delegate participated in the United Nations Conference on Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks, which convened in New York from 27 March to 12 April and from 24 July to 4 August 1994.

An ASIL delegate actively participated in the third meeting of the Conference of Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change which took place at Kyoto, Japan, from 1 to 10 December 1997, as well as subsequent meetings of the Conference of Parties and its subsidiary bodies.

An ASIL delegate participated in the forty-first session of the Commission on the Status of Women, from 10 to 21 March 1997 in New York.

An ASIL delegate attended the meeting of the Open-ended Working Group on the Review of Arrangements of Consultations with Non-Governmental Organizations held from 8 to 12 May 1995 in New York.

An ASIL delegate attended the meeting of the Legal Subcommittee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space held from 21 March to 8 April 1994 in New York.

An ASIL delegate attended the session of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean at Buenos Aires in April 1994.

An ASIL delegate attended the session of the Committee on the Rights of the Child held at Geneva in January 1994.

An ASIL delegate attended the meeting of the Preparatory Committee for the International Conference on Population and Development which took place from 4 to 22 April 1994 in New York.

An ASIL delegate attended the United Nations Law of the Sea Convention in July 1994.

ASIL has also participated in the United States of America United Nations Association United Nations Day on 10 December 1997.

Six ASIL delegates attended the Fourth World Conference on Women, held at Beijing in September 1995.

2. Fundación de Ayuda contra la Drogadicción

(Special consultative status granted 1989)

The Fundación de Ayuda contra la Drogadicción (FAD) is a private, non-profit-making institution, with no political or religious affiliation, of Spanish nationality and with its own legal personality; it is officially recognized as a charitable organization by the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare. FAD activities are concentrated on the prevention of drug problems through demand reduction.

From 1994 to 1997, bearing in mind the needs for prevention and the recovery and rehabilitation processes, FAD strengthened its programmes and strategies targeted at environments in which prevention may be possible: the family, the school, and recreational and leisure facilities. The activities carried out by FAD have aimed to meet three objectives simultaneously. First, social awareness-building, through constant efforts to empower the social conscience and to involve the various social agents actively in the face of a problem whose importance is not abating, and which requires their participation in preventive action. Second, the provision of solid technical support to all the activities which are undertaken. And, third, managerial capacity for the establishment of the various programmes and activities, which in some cases are carried out directly by the Fundación (telephone assistance, documentation centre, publications, campaigns, and so forth) through the creation of the appropriate operational structures, and in other cases are carried out in cooperation with third parties (implementation of programmes for schools, families, social

workers, police etc.); the functions of FAD vary in extent depending on the wishes of the institutions responsible for implementation (municipal councils, autonomous communities, European Commission, etc.).

During the period from 1994 to 1997 FAD carried out the following activities:

Publicity campaigns

Since 1989, FAD has maintained the only continuous publicity campaign in existence in Spain, encompassing radio, the press, home videos, cinema, and public and private television. The campaigns aim to enhance the level of information on the problem and facilitate the action of the various social agents involved. The enormous impact achieved in the communications media, which represents a landmark in the history of Spanish communications, has reached most of society, especially young people. The International Narcotics Control Board, in its annual report on the world drug situation, commended Spain on the campaign carried out by FAD in 1997 entitled "*Control*". Over 12,000 television spots have been broadcast.

Recreational and leisure activities

Promotion of sports, participation in fairs, camps, sports centres and organization of courses for youth workers. Over one million young people have participated.

Telephone information line (900)

This service provides to the persons concerned, their families and other interested parties, up-to-date information on assistance available, frameworks of action, and so forth, in the area of drug addiction. During the period 1994 to 1997, a total of 83,273 calls were handled.

Documentation centre

The largest Spanish language documentation centre. Bibliographic and documentary collection. From the documentation centre, documents concerning drug dependency emanating from all United Nations bodies are disseminated at the national level.

Web page (www.fad.es)

Includes information, preventive leaflets, documents, campaigns, programmes, materials, etc. The database and documents collection may be consulted directly on the Internet.

Publications

Periodical: Press bulletin, summary bulletin, catalogue of collections and information booklets.

Special: *Métodos científicos para la investigación de intervenciones preventivas* (Scientific methods for research on prevention strategies); *Programa de cooperación para América Latina* (Cooperation programme for Latin America); *Información general para la prevención* (General information on prevention); *La incidencia de las drogas en el mundo laboral* (The impact of drugs in the workplace); *Manual para profesionales de los servicios de salud laboral* (Manual for professionals in occupational health services); *Una década en la prevención de las drogodependencias: crónica de la FAD, 1986–1996* (A decade in the prevention of drug dependency: FAD chronicle, 1986–1996); *Publicación divulgativa sobre el uso de drogas en el deporte* (Information bulletin on drug use in sports); and also materials, guides and manuals accompanying each of the programmes.

Comprehensive school prevention plan

This programme seeks to involve schools by offering educators training in preventive aspects and appropriate teaching materials, along with continuous monitoring and advice from the experts of the Fundación. For this plan, various complementary or support programmes have been established, using strategies or means of communication such as the cinema, literature, music, sports, and so forth. These complementary programmes aim to facilitate the teacher's work in introducing subjects in the context of values education and health education.

Programme for the prevention of drug abuse within the family environment

This programme seeks to complement school action with family participation in the sphere of prevention.

Both the school programme and the family programme have been very well received and are highly regarded; the best indication of this is the continued and growing demand for them.

Youth programme: competition "Y tú ¿que piensas?" (And what do you think?)

The purpose of this programme is to provide guidance to young people between the ages of 16 and 18 on various aspects related to new patterns of consumption by establishing a strategy to facilitate reflection and group work

with a view to reducing levels of consumption of alcohol and other drugs among young people.

Other activities

Training programme for armed forces professionals who will subsequently be responsible for providing training in various military regions; training programme for youth and social workers, an activity directed towards leisure workers and social workers who work directly with young people; meeting with professionals of the communications media for training in the field of drugs; research work under the comprehensive school prevention plan, postgraduate courses in various universities, and so forth.

International sphere

International cooperation activities are being given strong impetus and accorded high importance, mainly on the basis of cooperation with the Commission of the European Community for various programmes in South America. The following projects have been carried out:

(a) Training programme for social workers and professionals, and extension of preventive programmes, in Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru and Venezuela;

(b) Technical assistance in identifying Peru's needs in the area of drugs, financed by the European Commission, and technical advice to the Ministries of Health and Education of Peru in the identification of cooperation projects;

(c) Preparation of a report on comparative legislation on drugs in the Andean Pact countries;

(d) Publication of material on prevention to support the training of social workers and professionals;

(e) Creation of a CD-ROM and of interactive methodology for the training of communicators, financed by the "Leonardo da Vinci" programme of the European Community. Developed in cooperation with Italy and Portugal;

(f) Establishment of an Internet forum (www.forofad.org) as an instrument for exchanges with Latin America.

During the period 1994–1997, FAD attended meetings of the following international bodies:

(a) Economic and Social Council;

(b) Substance Abuse Department of the World Health Organization, as project coordinator;

(c) European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction of the European Community, as experts on drugs which are abused;

(d) European network of health data on drug abuse, a specialized centre for the dissemination of documentation and information attached to the Spanish drug monitoring centre;

(e) European Libraries and Information Services on Alcohol and Other Drugs, as members of the managing council;

(f) Substance Abuse Libraries and Information Services, as members;

(g) Committee of non-governmental organizations associated with the United Nations International Drug Control Programme, as members;

(h) Youth Substance Abuse Prevention Fund (MENTOR foundation), as technical advisers to the council;

(i) European foundation of telephone assistance services, as a founding member;

(j) Regional Alcohol and Drug Awareness Resource, as associate members;

(k) Committee of non-governmental organizations associated with the United Nations International Drug Control Programme, as members;

(l) European NGO Council on Drugs and Development, as members.

FAD regularly attends the meetings of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme at Vienna.

3. International Abolitionist Federation

(General consultative status granted 1997)

Background

The International Abolitionist Federation (IAF) was founded in 1875 by Josephine Butler, an eminent Victorian feminist. It has consultative status with UNESCO, UNICEF, the Council of Europe and the ILO. It has close working relations with the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat, UNDCP, the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice at Vienna, the United Nations Centre for Human Rights at Geneva and Interpol at Lyon, France. It has permanent representatives at the United Nations centres in New York,

Geneva and Vienna. It works closely with the international and national NGOs working in the areas of women, children and social welfare programmes.

Aims

It works towards the prevention of

(a) Traffic in persons;

(b) Exploitation of prostitution of others;

(c) All forms of discrimination based on gender;

(d) State regulation of prostitution;

(e) All forms of slavery and slavery-like practices.

To achieve its aims IAF promotes:

(a) Public awareness of the problems of prostitution and related crimes through its congress, conferences and publications;

(b) Social rehabilitation of victims of prostitution, traffic, violence and abuse by sponsoring projects for education, vocational training, health care and employment.

Activities

IAF geographical contacts have expanded particularly into Eastern Europe since its thirty-first global congress at Bucharest from 26 to 30 September 1994. It was possible to hold this congress only because of the kind donations and wide support of UNICEF, UNESCO, the Council of Europe, the Governments of France, Sweden and Romania, the International Development Authority of Sweden, ILO-Philippines, UNDP and the World Bank-Romania. Many representatives of these donor agencies participated at this congress. The United Nations Centre for Human Rights was represented by the Special Representative of the Director General of the United Nations Office at Geneva. There were more than 200 participants who came from 45 countries, with 10 NGO representatives from other Eastern European countries.

The availability of funds has always been a major obstacle for expansion of IAF activities. It finds itself more and more restricted in pursuing its goals for the lack of adequate funding. In spite of this constraint, IAF has been able to fulfil many important functions in conformity with its objectives.

IAF was part of the NGO working groups at Geneva on the elaboration of a new protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child. One group dealt with the subject of the "child soldier" and the other dealt with the "sale of children and pornography". IAF contributed to the latter group.

IAF considers its involvement with the NGO working groups and committees at the United Nations centres as an essential part of its United Nations representation. IAF with the NGO working groups at Geneva and Vienna, prepared the European Union's preparatory conference and NGO forum at Vienna (October 1994). As a member of the Executive Committee, it was responsible for the production of the newsletter and NGO registration. An official statement was prepared for the official conference on the topics "Girl child" and "Migrant women".

IAF actively cooperates and makes positive contributions at different NGO Committees both internationally and nationally on the topics "Women and peace", "Status of women", "Drug abuse and trafficking", "Violence against women", "Migrant women", "Traditional practices", "Family", "Children in armed conflicts", "Child prostitution, traffic and pornography" and "Crime prevention and criminal justice".

Every year, IAF participates in meetings of the Working Group on Contemporary Forms of Slavery of the Subcommission on Human Rights, and submits statements on the current situation regarding contemporary forms of slavery in different parts of the world. It has also formulated a joint statement with other NGOs to broaden the Working Group's mandate and for it to become a Working Group of the Commission on Human Rights for better effectiveness. This has been partly achieved.

IAF participated in the ILO conference in June 1994 on the development of standards for placement agencies that may lure women from one country to brothels in another country.

IAF participated at the meeting of the Subcommission on the Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities in August 1994. It was invited to attend a UNHCR Executive Committee meeting in October 1994, and as a result of its input into a chapter of the UNHCR field guide, IAF received a letter of thanks for its cooperation and acquired the status of "official observer" (equivalent to consultative status).

IAF participated in the NGO Forum at the fourth World Conference on Women at Beijing from 30 August to 2 September 1995, and also at the official Conference from 4 to 15 September 1995. It participated at the reconvened fortieth session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs on 3 and 4 December 1997 at Vienna. All these have been ongoing IAF activities during 1994–1997.

In addition, IAF:

(a) Delivered a keynote address at the NGO Forum for the World Summit for Social Development at Copenhagen on 8 March 1995;

(b) Participated actively in the First World Conference on the Sexual Exploitation of Children (Stockholm, 27–31 August 1996);

(c) Along with other NGOs, worked on a draft convention based on the 1949 Convention for the Suppression of the Traffic in Persons and of the Exploitation of the Prostitution of Others, which lacks the force to combat the current complex problems of trafficking in persons and the exploitation of the prostitution of others;

(d) Prepared documents jointly with Geneva-based NGOs on sexual exploitation of children in Rwanda, and made studies on subjects of the impact of organized Mafia crimes in five countries — Israel, Egypt, the Syrian Arab Republic, Morocco and Tunisia. These documents were prepared with inputs from local NGOs and supported by UNICEF;

(e) Published documents of the thirty-first international congress of IAF in English and French, and distributed them to all participants, donor agencies, NGOs and interested public;

(f) Participated at an international conference on the theme "Violence, abuse and women's citizenship (Brighton, United Kingdom, 10–15 November 1996).

4. Christian Democratic International

(Special consultative status granted 1950)

Nature and objectives

Christian Democratic International (CDI) is an organization of political parties and organizations inspired by integral Christian humanism. Its main values and objectives are as follows: promotion and defence of human rights and national and international peace; recognition of the social nature of the human being and defence of basic social institutions, particularly the family; promotion and defence of democracy and democratic institutions; promotion of integral human development, with respect for nature and the preservation of natural resources; application of subsidiarity, solidarity and justice through the social market economy.

In order to respond adequately to the new realities which have emerged since the end of the cold war and the establishment of democracy in a considerable number of nations, CDI launched an internal reform process which resulted in the adoption, on 8 and 9 June 1995, of a basic document on principles and values of Christian democracy and of new statutes. During the period covered by this report, CDI expanded its geographical scope; its membership increased from 67 members at the beginning of 1994 to 76 members at the end of 1997.

Relations with the United Nations and participation in its activities

CDI representatives have been accredited every year to the three United Nations headquarters (New York, Geneva and Vienna), the regional economic commissions and the Department of Public Information at the United Nations Headquarters in New York.

CDI has participated in United Nations conferences, including the World Summit for Social Development (Copenhagen, March 1995) and the conferences on women's rights (Beijing, 1995) and population (Cairo, September 1994). It has also participated in the annual sessions of the Commission on Human Rights in Geneva, where it has delivered statements on various agenda items.

It has participated in the conference and annual meeting of non-governmental organizations accredited to the United Nations in New York.

The central theme of the Eleventh General Assembly of CDI (Brussels, 8 and 9 June 1995) was the fiftieth anniversary of the establishment of the United Nations.

On 16 April 1994, the Deputy Secretary-General of CDI, together with the Secretaries-General of Socialist International and Liberal International, visited the Secretary-General of the United Nations in New York to express their organizations' support for the World Summit for Social Development, which was to be held the following year in Copenhagen.

The President of CDI met in Geneva on 13 February 1997 with the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the Director-General of the International Labour Office (ILO) and the Deputy Director-General for ILO Activities in Europe.

International conferences

CDI has held conferences on the following topics, which coincide with the objectives of the United Nations or its subsidiary bodies: "Humanism and democracy in the

twenty-first century" (Santiago, 8 and 9 January 1994), at which the President of Chile made a statement; "An economy with a human face" (Manila, 19 to 23 November 1995), at which the main speaker was the President of the Philippines; "Human development in Latin America" (Santiago, 22 to 24 August 1996), at which the President of Chile was the main speaker; "Political development and religious currents in the Mediterranean basin" (Barcelona, 26 and 27 February 1997), at which representatives of the Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and of the President of the European Union, respectively, made statements; "Globalization and National Identity" (Paris, 6 November 1997), at which the main speaker was the President of Romania.

Promotion of peace and democracy

This is considered to be one of the organization's primary responsibilities and it has received ongoing attention. To this end, the President, Vice-Presidents and Secretary-General of CDI have visited the following countries: Argentina, Mexico, Guatemala, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Bolivia, Costa Rica, Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Panama, Colombia, Venezuela, Ecuador, Chile, Belgium, the Netherlands, Spain, France, Luxembourg, Switzerland, Italy, Austria, Lithuania, Poland, Slovenia, Hungary, Romania, Norway, Israel, Palestine, Tunisia, Morocco, Jordan and the Philippines.

There they met with member parties and organizations of CDI, if any, participated in conferences on topics related to the principles and objectives of CDI and, whenever possible, met with government authorities, religious leaders and leaders of civil society. CDI has issued political statements and press releases on the following topics: elections in Equatorial Guinea; condemnation of the attempted coup d'état in Paraguay; need to advance towards unity in Europe; situation in southern Lebanon; presidential elections in Uganda; presidential elections in the Russian Federation; elections in Nicaragua; situation in the former Zaire; democracy for Myanmar; Oslo Agreement on peace in Guatemala; lifting of the embargo on the shipment of food and medicines to Cuba; proposals of CDI to promote positive change in Cuba; solidarity with the people of Yugoslavia and with the democratization initiatives of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe; threats to democracy in Colombia.

Documents and publications

CDI has streamlined its publications in order to adapt to the new international reality and to its new working methods. Its publications include the CDI newsletter (six issues published in French, English and Spanish) and the proceedings of its international conferences.

5. International Council of Scientific Unions

(Special consultative status granted 1971)

Aims and purpose

ICSU was set up in 1931 to promote international scientific activity in the different branches of science and their applications for the benefit of humanity. Since its creation, ICSU has vigorously pursued a policy of non-discrimination, affirming the rights and freedom of scientists throughout the world to engage in international scientific activity without regard to such factors as citizenship, religion, creed, political stance, ethnic origin, race, colour, language, age or sex. Its two categories of members comprise 25 international scientific unions (an increase of two since the last report), which are international disciplinary organizations, and 95 national scientific members (an increase of three since the last report — Costa Rica, Uganda and Kazakhstan), which are mainly scientific academies or research councils promoting multidisciplinary cooperation and research at the national level. The complementarity of these two groups provides a wide spectrum of scientific expertise enabling members to address major, global interdisciplinary issues which none of them could handle alone. ICSU also has 28 scientific associates. Several joint initiatives are carried out in cooperation with UNESCO, WMO, the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO, UNEP and FAO. Finally, because of ICSU's network of scientists around the world, it is increasingly called upon to act as the spokesperson for the world scientific community and as an adviser in matters ranging from ethics to the environment.

Participation in the work of the Council and its subsidiary bodies and/or conferences and other United Nations meetings

ICSU's formal participation in the meetings and other activities of the Council is necessarily limited by its financial resources and the availability of suitable representatives, but the individual involvement of members of the scientific

community globally and their expert contribution to the many issues addressed by the Council and its subsidiary bodies is substantial. Below is a brief overview of the major activities in which ICSU was involved during the period under review.

The President participated in April 1994 in a meeting of executive heads of the agencies on climate issues. The Chairman of ICSU's Advisory Committee on the Environment was Chair of the Advisory Panel for a proposal for a climate agenda, which was adopted in 1995. ICSU has participated in each meeting of the Coordinating Committee on the World Climate Programme since 1993 (renamed the Inter-Agency Committee on the Climate Agenda (in 1997). ICSU continues to be actively involved in the follow-up to UNCED, and participated in the 2nd, 3rd and 4th meetings of the Commission on Sustainable Development. The Executive Director of ICSU chaired a dialogue session on scientific and technological communities at the fifth session of the Commission, a report of which was presented to the General Assembly at its nineteenth special session, in 1997. ICSU was well represented at UNESCO's twenty-eighth and twenty-ninth General Conferences (November 1995 and November 1997), with delegations which included its President and Executive Director. At the celebration of UNESCO's fiftieth anniversary, the President of ICSU was invited to speak on behalf of all NGOs. ICSU has been represented at meetings of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change.

Cooperation with United Nations programmes and bodies and specialized agencies

ICSU partnerships with the United Nations and its specialized agencies are numerous and cover many areas (notably environment and development). At the meetings of its various governing bodies, ICSU regularly reviews these relations and cooperation continues to expand. ICSU has formal cooperation agreements with several United Nations bodies, including UNESCO since 1946 and WMO since 1960, as well as IAEA (1960), FAO (1964), UNEP (1972), UNDRO (1980), IDNDR (1989), the Commission on Sustainable Development (1990) and WIPO (1993).

Of these, cooperation with UNESCO is the most wide-ranging. That organization provides funds annually to ICSU for allocation within the ICSU grants programme, in previous years through a subvention and since 1996 through three framework contracts for activities in the areas of the basic sciences, science in developing countries and global change. There are almost daily contacts between UNESCO headquarters, in particular the Science Sector, and the ICSU secretariat and members of ICSU. ICSU and UNESCO meet regularly to discuss collaboration on scientific issues of mutual interest. Preparations are under way for a world science conference, co-sponsored by ICSU and UNESCO, which will take place in 1999 at Budapest. The President of ICSU is Chairman of the International Science Advisory Board (set up in 1997) to the conference. ICSU is involved in helping organize a session of the UNESCO World Conference on Higher Education, which was to be held in October 1998. In November 1997, ICSU was elected Treasurer of the NGO-UNESCO Liaison Committee for one year. Frequent and close contact is maintained with various prominent UNESCO programmes, such as the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission, the Man and the Biosphere Programme and the International Hydrological Programme. These contacts are made not only through the ICSU secretariat but also through the international scientific union members of ICSU and interdisciplinary ICSU bodies, such as the Scientific Committee on Problems of the Environment, the Committee on Data for Science and Technology and the Inter-Union Commission on the Lithosphere, to mention only a few.

Cooperation with FAO was strengthened with the establishment of an ICSU Committee on Sciences for Food Security in 1996.

ICSU was a founding sponsor of the Earth Council's Organizing Committee set up after UNCED, and the Executive Director chaired several sessions at the Earth Council's UNCED five-year follow-up conference held in March 1997.

Through its special committee for the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction, ICSU has been closely involved with the IDNDR, and members from both bodies regularly attend each other's meetings. Contacts with WHO intensified during 1996. ICSU bodies have been asked to contribute to WHO's Advisory Committee on Health Research, and the ICSU Treasurer attended meetings of the Committee. A delegation of the ICSU ad hoc group on data and information was present at a WIPO information meeting on intellectual property in databases in September 1997. The group was set up in 1997 in response to the growing commercial pressure for new intellectual property laws concerning databases. It was decided at the meeting that action at the international level to develop a new *sui generis* database treaty should be indefinitely postponed. ICSU was co-sponsor with WMO and IOC of a conference on the theme "World climate research programme: achievements, benefits and challenges", which took place at Geneva in August 1997.

ICSU has several joint initiatives with United Nations agencies but the space constraints of this report only allow a brief listing. The Committee on Science and Technology in Developing Countries/International Biosciences Networks, which is co-sponsored by UNESCO, was originally two separate bodies set up in 1966 and 1979; these were merged in 1993 in order to streamline their activities. The International Geological Correlation Programme is a joint programme of the International Union of Geological Sciences, an international scientific union member of ICSU and UNESCO, set up in 1972. The WMO-ICSU-UNESCO/IOC world climate research programme was set up in 1980 as the successor to the global atmospheric research programme. More recently, joint initiatives on global observations have been set up. A memorandum of understanding between WMO, IOC, UNEP and ICSU for a global climate observing system was signed in 1992. WMO, ICSU and IOC agreed on establishing a joint scientific steering committee for a global ocean observing system in 1993. In 1993, FAO, ICSU, UNESCO, UNEP and WMO signed a memorandum of understanding to sponsor the global terrestrial observing system. An international programme of biodiversity science, DIVERSITAS, set up in 1991, is co-sponsored by the International Union of Biological Sciences, the International Union of Microbiological Societies (two ICSU members), ICSU's Scientific Committee on the International Geosphere-Biosphere Programme, ICSU, SCOPE and UNESCO. In 1987, the lectureships/professorships in science and sustainable development programme was set up by ICSU and the Third World Academy of Sciences (TWAS). Since 1989, this programme has also been sponsored by UNESCO and the Commonwealth Science Council, and the Earth Council joined as co-sponsor in 1993. A joint UNESCO/ICSU/TWAS short-term fellowship programme in the basic sciences was established in 1991.

Cooperation of a less formal nature (although this includes working relations) is also maintained with IAEA, ITU, UNDP, UNDRO and UNIDO.

Other relevant activities

As mentioned above, ICSU has a fundamental policy of non-discrimination. Discrimination of any form hinders the free communication and exchange of ideas and information, which is the keystone to the progress of science. Thus, the Standing Committee on Freedom in the Conduct of Science was created in 1963 (formerly the Standing Committee on the Free Circulation of Scientists), and acts as ICSU's watchdog on such matters. All the rights mentioned above, which the Standing Committee vigorously defends, are embodied in various articles of the International Bill of Human rights, to which reference is made in the ICSU statement on freedom in the conduct of science which was adopted in 1989. The Standing Committee continues to work successfully towards the resolution of cases involving the potential infringement of such rights of individual bona fide scientists.

ICSU closely follows progress in the implementation and planning of the conventions on climate change, biological diversity and combating desertification, providing scientific expertise when requested. The DIVERSITAS programme signed a memorandum of cooperation with the Convention on Biological Diversity secretariat in October 1997.

Cooperation between the United Nations system and the network of scientists worldwide which constitutes ICSU is active and varied, and far too extensive to be described in detail here. Through its network, ICSU reaches a million or so individual scientists, which in turn are in contact with the United Nations system, either directly or through their own national government agencies. ICSU has the advantage of being able to bring to the United Nations agencies which request its assistance impartial, well respected scientific advice. In turn, ICSU is able to interact with Governments and governmental agencies through the United Nations system in a way which would not otherwise be possible.

6. International Council of Societies of Industrial Design (ICSID)

(Special consultative status granted 1974)

Established in 1957, the International Council of Societies of Industrial Design (ICSID) is a non-profit, non-governmental organization seeking to advance the development and awareness of the profession of industrial design. Working with national and international professional, promotional and educational organizations, ICSID assists with programmes, workshops, exhibitions, congresses and international guidelines to enhance the professional skills of designers worldwide, and to educate industry, business, economic and consumer circles on the potential contributions of industrial design. The goal of these activities is to improve the standard of living and quality of life within communities worldwide through the awareness and application of good design practices.

ICSID headquarters have been located at Helsinki since 1985. In the four-year period from 1994–1997, ICSID

membership has increased by 31 per cent to consist of 151 societies from 52 countries (including expansion into 12 new countries). Annual fees from member societies constitute approximately 73 per cent of annual ICSID revenues.

As per the regional divisions regularly used by the United Nations (with North America added for clarity), ICSID membership and Executive Board representation during the 1994–1997 period can be seen as relatively proportionate:

Geographic region (as defined by United Nations)	*Membership (as of December 1997)*		*Regional representation on Executive Board (percentage)*		
	societies	*% of total*	*1993–1995*	*1995–1997*	*1997–1999*
Africa	4	2.7	0.0	9.1	9.1
Asia and the Pacific	35	23.2	18.2	18.2	18.2
Arab States	1	0.6	0.0	0.0	0.0
Europe	88	58.3	45.4	54.5	45.4
Latin America	16	10.6	9.1	18.2	9.1
North America	7	4.6	27.3	0.0	18.2

Participation in United Nations meetings and conferences

During the 1994–1997 period, ICSID has tried to increase its active participation in various United Nations activities. Official United Nations meetings in which ICSID representatives have participated include the following:

(a) UNIDO meeting of the Industrial Development Board, seventh special session, attended by ICSID Executive Board Member Zdenka Burianová (Vienna, 22–27 April 1997);

(b) UNIDO Seventh General Conference, attended by ICSID Executive Board Member Zdenka Burianová (Vienna, 1–5 December 1996);

(c) UNESCO meeting of the Executive Board, 150th session, attended by ICSID Executive Board Member Zdenka Burianová (Paris, 8 October 1996);

(d) UNESCO 24th NGO conference, attended by ICSID representative to UNESCO Anne Marie Boutin (Paris, 11–12 December 1995);

(e) UNESCO Twenty-eighth General Congress, attended by ICSID representative to UNESCO Anne Marie Boutin (Paris, 25 October–16 November 1995);

(f) United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, ninth session, "Promoting growth and sustainable development in a liberalizing and globalizing economy" (Midrand, South Africa, 27 April–11 May 1996). ICSID was represented in the conference exhibition under the banner "Design for trade and development".

Cooperation with United Nations programmes, bodies and specialized agencies

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

- "Artists in development" creativity workshop programme, invitation to consult on development of the programme based on ICSID interdesign experience. Further collaboration continues with Culture and Development Coordination Office (CDC) Director Y. R. Isar and Project Coordinator Eleonore van der Linden (Paris, July 1997).
- Intergovernmental conference on the theme "Cultural policies for development: power of culture", invitation to host conference agora session received from CDC Director Dr. Y. R. Isar (Paris, November 1997).
- Cooperation in second phase of UNESCO review of participation programme (Paris, March 1997).
- Informal meeting between Acting Chief, NGO Section, External Relations Bureau, Michael Millward, ICSID President Uwe Bahnsen and ICSID representative to UNESCO Anne Marie Boutin. This meeting was initiated after the official NGO status (category B) of ICSID was reclassified to "informal", to discuss this reclassification and to identify possibilities through which to improve future collaboration (Paris, February 1997).
- "Culture and development: a symbiotic relationship" published in *ICSIDnews* April 1994. Author: member of the secretariat of the World Decade for Cultural Development, Mervyn Claxton (Paris, August 1994).

United Nations Industrial Development Organization

- Informal meetings to discuss possible ICSID-UNIDO collaborative efforts between ICSID President Uwe Bahnsen and NGO Section Chief Giuseppe Papuli, Industrial Quality Group Coordinator Octavio Maizza-Neto, Technology Services Director Fernando M. Machado and NGO Section Project Manager Nader Barzin (Vienna, 14 March 1997).
- Information meetings to discuss new role of UNIDO within the United Nations and possible ICSID-UNIDO

collaboration between ICSID Executive Board Member Zdenka Burianová and UNIDO NGO Office representative Doris Hribernigg (Vienna, December 1996).

World Intellectual Property Organization
(all meetings attended by ICSID representative Geoffrey Adams, Adviser in Design Protection Law and Practice)

- Annual meetings of the WIPO Committee of Experts on the revision of the Hague Agreement on the International Registration of Industrial Design (Geneva, seventh session, 3–5 November 1997; sixth session, 2–6 November 1996; fifth session, 13–15 June 1995; fourth session, 31 January–2 February 1994).
- Annual meetings of the WIPO Committee of Experts on a possible protocol to the Berne Convention (Geneva, seventh session, 20–26 May 1996; sixth session, 1–9 February 1996; fifth session, 4–8 September 1995; fourth session, 5–9 December 1994.
- The Hague Agreement: WIPO consultation with users and NGOs (Geneva, 7 November 1997).
- Presentation at EU conference on patents as an innovation tool (Vienna, 4–6 May 1997).
- WIPO diplomatic conference on copyright and related rights (Geneva, 2–20 December 1996).
- EU seminar on copyright and the information society (Florence, 2–5 June 1996).
- WIPO meeting of users of the Hague Agreement (Geneva, 16 June 1995).
- WIPO world forum on the protection of intellectual creations in the information society (Naples, 18–20 October 1995).
- General discussion of WIPO activities with NGOs (Geneva, 9 December 1994).
- WIPO worldwide symposium on future of copyright in light of new technology (Paris, 1–3 June 1994).
- Presentation at EC seminar on future strategies and objectives in intellectual property matters (Athens, 11–13 April 1994).
- Presentation at WIPO Asian regional seminar on industrial designs (Beijing, 1–3 March 1994).

United Nations Environment Programme

- *ICSIDnews* has continued to be sent regularly, at the specific request of UNEP Librarian, B. Y. Megherbi (Paris, November 1996).
- "UNEP — sustainable product development", article introducing Working Group on Sustainable Product Development and calling for contacts and participation, published in *ICSIDnews* April 1994. Author: Working Group Chairman J. C. van Weeren, Amsterdam (the Netherlands, August 1994).
- "United Nations Environment Programme", article introducing cleaner production programme, published in *ICSIDnews* February 1994. Information supplied from Executive Secretary M. Jansen (the Netherlands, March 1994).
- UNEP Industry and Environment Programme Activity Centre, working group consultation through ICSID President Mai Felip, at suggestion of Director J. Aloisi de Larderel (the Netherlands, February 1994).

Activities in support of various United Nations resolutions, activities and mandates

During the 1994–1997 period, ICSID and its member societies have undertaken several projects, workshops, seminars and conferences in support of various United Nations resolutions and activities, including the following:

(a) The World Directory of Design Education was also updated to include almost 250 schools offering design education at the post-secondary school level, in 37 countries worldwide. The project was undertaken by ICSID Executive Board Member Zdenka Burianová under the auspices of the Slovak Design Center, Slovakia (distributed August 1997);

(b) An international seminar on the theme "Design without borders" was organized by ICSID promotional member society Artesanías de Colombia, with participants from 12 countries, including representatives from UNESCO and the Executive Board of the World Craft Council (Bogotá, 9–11 December 1996);

(c) An international forum on design in Mercosul was organized by ICSID Executive Board Member Eduardo Barroso Neto under the auspices of ICSID promotional member society, Laboratório Brasileiro de Design Industrial (Florianópolis, 12 October 1995);

(d) The Second International Conference on Design Education in Developing Countries was organized by ICSID Executive Board Member Adrienne Viljoen under the auspices of ICSID promotional member society Design Institute of the South African Bureau of Standards (Cape Town, 23–25 February 1995). CDC Director Y. R. Isar was an invited speaker at this conference;

(e) An international forum on design and cultural diversity was organized by ICSID Executive Board Member

Eduardo Barroso Neto under the auspices of ICSID promotional member society Laboratório Brasileiro de Design Industrial (Florianópolis, 1994).

ICSID interdesigns have been hosted for over 25 years in an attempt to bring designers worldwide together to address issues of both local and international significance. While some ICSID interdesigns have been in direct collaboration with United Nations societies, all such workshops address issues consistent with United Nations objectives, and are often inspired by United Nations-specified themes and directives. Some examples were:

- "Cuernavaca interdesign '96: design strategies for regional development". Seventy-five participants from 16 different countries collaborated to identify and develop existing and potential new industries in areas that were lacking an established industrial infrastructure (Mexico, 14–16 October 1996).
- "Baltic interdesign '96: wood: global resource". Thirty-seven designers from 14 countries examined ways through which local designers and architects could add value to the Baltic wood industry for both domestic and international markets, with a focus on product designs that would represent Baltic culture and enhance community environments (Latvia, 8–22 September 1996).
- "Tasmania interdesign '95: sustainable development, the design imperatives". Forty-one designers investigated the meaning of the word "sustainable", and then developed strategies for sustainable practices in the following sectors: food, forestry, tourism, hydro-electricity, small business and community governance (Australia, 30 June–16 July 1995).
- "ICSID interdesign Bogotá '94: crafts as a source for interior design". Thirty Colombian artisans worked with 20 local designers and 12 internationally recognized experts from nine countries to develop ways through which the local crafts industries could position their products within domestic and international markets (Colombia, 23 November–7 December 1994).
- "ICSID interdesign Bergslagen '94: transport for the future". Seventy designers from 19 different countries worked on the development of ideas for new or existing products within the transport industry (Sweden, 22 May–5 June 1994).

ICSID has also continued to support United Nations programmes by providing links on the ICSID Web site; including United Nations events in the monthly calendar of international events, and maintaining open lines of communication with several key individuals in the United Nations international network.

7. International Council of Voluntary Agencies (ICVA)

(General consultative status granted 1974)

The purposes of the International Council of Voluntary Agencies (ICVA) are to provide a forum for consultation and cooperation among voluntary agencies by Governments, intergovernmental organizations and the international community in efforts to alleviate human suffering and to foster just and sustainable development; to promote effective partnership among voluntary agencies across all regions of the world through dialogue, exchange of views and efforts to build common perspectives and to coordinate activities; and to collect, coordinate, disseminate information to peoples, Governments, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations throughout the world on the humanitarian problems addressed by voluntary agencies.

The number of international NGOs and/or NGO networks members of ICVA is 83, of which 16 are in African countries, 17 in Asian countries, 18 in European countries, 15 in countries from Latin America and the Caribbean, 11 in countries in North America, one in Oceania and five in countries in the Middle East.

ICVA has made annual statements to the Commission on Human Rights, and has facilitated the annual NGO statement to the Executive Committee of the Office of the United Nations Commissioner for Refugees.

In February 1995, ICVA was present at the OAU/UNHCR regional conference on assistance to refugees, returnees and displaced persons in the Great Lakes Region, held at Bujumbura, and was involved in preparing the joint NGO statement to the meeting.

ICVA was actively involved from the beginning in the preparatory process of the World Summit for Social Development, and was also active in the parallel NGO Forum held at Copenhagen in March 1995 during the Summit, also participating in the drafting of the Copenhagen alternative declaration. As part of the NGO Forum, ICVA, in cooperation with the Danish Refugee Council, organized a symposium on the role of the NGO emergency assistance in promoting peace and reconciliation.

Realizing the importance of strengthening the UNHCR/NGO partnership to enhance international humanitarian response in favour of refugees, returnees and displaced persons, UNHCR and ICVA launched a number of worldwide consultations over a period of 12 months, known as "partnership in action" consultations. Regional meetings were held between UNHCR and some 450 NGOs at Caracas, Kathmandu, Tunis, Bangkok, Addis Ababa and Budapest, which together with supplementary consultations in Canada, Japan and the United States, culminated in the global NGO/UNHCR partnership in action conference at Oslo from 6 to 9 June 1994. UNHCR and NGOs adopted the Oslo plan of action, containing 134 recommendations on how to reinforce the UNHCR/NGO partnership. ICVA organized a series of regional training workshops involving NGOs and UNHCR officials on how to put into practice those recommendations. ICVA developed terms of reference for NGO focal points to secure a representative structure among NGOs. UNHCR also developed terms of reference for its focal points, which were appointed in every branch office and in each regional bureau office at headquarters. ICVA worked closely with UNHCR in producing guidelines and writing handbooks for NGOs involved in UNHCR field operations, such as the guidelines on protection for NGOs working with internally displaced persons and refugees.

ICVA facilitated meetings of NGOs with UNHCR informal technical consultations on overhead costs of NGO partners. This resulted in instructions being issued to all UNHCR field offices concerning overheads of NGO implementing partners. ICVA also hosted the UNHCR briefings for NGOs on the work of the new Standing Committee of the UNHCR Executive Committee.

ICVA continued to work closely with the Department of Humanitarian Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat, and participated regularly in meetings of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee and its working group as one of the three NGO umbrella organizations members of IASC. ICVA participated on the inter-agency mission to Somalia, which took place from 1 to 7 February 1996 to review United Nations humanitarian operations and address concerns raised by humanitarian partners in the field. ICVA initiated a programme of regular Department of Humanitarian Affairs/NGO meetings at Geneva, hosted by ICVA, at which the Department exchanged perspectives with NGOs on major issues.

ICVA worked closely with the NGO UNDP Liaison Officer at Geneva to enhance NGO/UNDP relationships, and to support UNDP in its efforts to work more closely with NGOs in the field.

ICVA initiated the establishment of an NGO coordination unit in August 1994 at Kigali. When UNREO moved out of Kigali, the NGOs working in the country set up an NGO forum.

ICVA was instrumental in regularizing meetings between the International Organization on Migration and NGOs to share information and concerns and develop responses to major migration trends and issues. An area of particular concern was the Commonwealth of Independent States, where ICVA had a close working relationship with IOM, UNHCR and OSCE.

ICVA participated actively in preparatory work for the Conference on Refugees, Returnees, Displaced Persons and Related Migratory Movements in the Countries of the CIS and Relevant Neighbouring States, which took place at Geneva on 30 and 31 May 1996, organizing a preparatory consultative meeting on 29 May 1996, which brought together some 75 NGOs from the CIS region and neighbouring States. ICVA submitted an oral statement to the Conference. ICVA also held a workshop on the role of NGOs in the implementation of the adopted plan of action. In collaboration with NGOs and UNHCR/IOM, ICVA organized a regional follow-up to the CIS conference consultation in November 1996.

From 30 September–4 October 1996, ICVA launched an international exhibition and conference, entitled WorldAid '96, aimed at improved coordination, more effective disaster response, and better understanding and greater transparency in the procurement process. This initiative was fully sponsored by the Department of Humanitarian Affairs and UNDP. The next exhibition and conference are scheduled for October 1998.

ICVA was represented at the World Food Summit, which was held in Rome from 13 to 17 November 1996, and participated in the NGO forum on food security which ran parallel to the Summit. The ICVA representative was involved in the drafting of the NGO forum statement which was delivered at the World Food Summit, and which was entitled "Profit for few or food for all".

ICVA was requested by UNDP to identify NGO participants for the UNDP international conference on governance for sustainable growth and equity, which took place in New York from 28 to 30 July 1997. ICVA also participated in the conference.

Due to severe financial difficulties, at its meeting on 30 May 1997 the ICVA Executive Committee recommended to the membership that the organization cease its activities. However, a group of members produced an alternative

recommendation, which was subsequently adopted by the membership, to suspend activities for a short period, during which time efforts would be made to restructurize and develop alternative working methods. Thanks to a generous grant from UNHCR and special contributions from ICVA's member agencies, the ICVA secretariat was kept open with a minimum staff (one senior secretary). A consultant produced a plan for the restructurization of the organization, which was approved at the 7 October 1997 meeting of ICVA's Executive Committee.

During the period June 1997–February 1998, the ICVA secretariat was overviewed by ICVA's Acting Chair, with the assistance of working committees on finance, world aid, and restructuring. Member agencies represented ICVA at major meetings. In early April 1998, the ICVA secretariat recommenced its activities and now has a Coordinator, an Assistant Secretary to the Coordinator and a Bookkeeper. Funding has been received from Governments, and cooperation with the United Nations system is continuing actively.

8. International Union of Latin Notariat

(Special consultative status granted 1978)

Background

The first step towards the establishment of the International Union of Latin Notariat (UINL) was the convening of a first international congress of notaries in Buenos Aires, in October 1945. In October 1998, the Union will hold its twenty-second congress, in Buenos Aires, to mark its fiftieth anniversary.

Aims

The aim of the Union continues to be to promote, coordinate and develop at the international level the role of the notary as a technical and legal expert who ensures impartiality in private contractual relations, with the ultimate aim of forestalling and preventing controversies and conflicts. Notaries ensure juridical safety in the field of private contractual relations.

The Union represents the profession in all kinds of international organizations, both global and regional (United Nations, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, Organization of American States and Latin American Integration Association, European Economic Community, Council of Europe and Asian and African organizations) and in the other private organizations which seek to promote the harmonization and modernization of law (Hague Conference, International Association of Judges and International Bar Association).

It also seeks to uphold the profession and to work with national groups to constantly improve the quality of the services that notaries provide to the population that they serve, seeking to foster continuing improvement and updating of knowledge through studies, seminars, congresses and publications, paying particular attention to notaries from developing countries in America, Africa and Asia or from European countries where the profession has recently been re-established following the restoration in those countries of systems having greater political and economic freedom.

Recognition by the United Nations

The criteria as regards objectives, membership, structure and activities, which the Economic and Social Council took into account when according the Union consultative status, remain in full force. The Union continues to meet the Council's every criteria and its activities are fully in line with the ideals of the United Nations.

Membership

Membership has more than doubled since the time of the Union's establishment. In the period covered by this report (1994–1997) 16 new countries have been admitted as members: Albania, Burkina Faso, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Guinea, Indonesia, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Panama, Romania, the Russian Federation, Slovakia, Slovenia and South Africa. As of December 1997, there were 67 member countries.

Activity of the Union in support of the goals of the United Nations

Representatives of the Union participate in all forums of the United Nations, both at headquarters and elsewhere, on issues related to the Organization's objectives, *inter alia*, on matters relating to human rights, specifically with reference to civil, economic, social, cultural and political rights; these forums include, *inter alia*, the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the World Trade Organization and the various bodies dealing with the status of women, protection of children, families, the environment and human settlements.

The Union also participates in the work of other organizations of the United Nations system, particularly with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural

Organization, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law.

Examples of the activities of the Union which are in keeping with the purposes of the United Nations include the signing in Vienna, on 11 February 1994, of a protocol of cooperation with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the signing in Paris, on 28 April 1998, of a similar protocol with the Director-General of UNESCO.

To commemorate Human Rights Year, the Union has chosen "fundamental human rights and the notary's mission" as one of the main themes to be considered at its twenty-second international congress, which is scheduled to be held in Buenos Aires in October 1998.

Seminars and publications

The Union and affiliated national organizations are constantly organizing congresses, seminars, colloquia and meetings of all kinds to discuss and analyse, primarily from the legal standpoint, issues relating to human rights, the protection of consumers, the family, children, the environment and other issues, in accordance with the aims and objectives of the United Nations.

The Union and its affiliated organs publish countless journals and articles, particularly by fellow notaries, on a wide variety of legal issues of general interest. Of particular note is the scientific journal *Notarius International*, which began publication in 1996 and which contains articles by leading notaries on issues of current interest; the other periodical is the journal *RIN* which is more informative in nature and which has been going for over 40 years.

Of particular interest is the publication by the Union's committee on European affairs of a very interesting work on the law applicable to staff members of international organizations, which we consider to be of particular interest to staff members of the United Nations and which the Union makes available to everyone.

Given that this summary of activities has to be very short in accordance with the guidelines established by the Council, it is not possible to dwell on the many other activities carried out by the Union and its affiliates in support of the ideals and objectives of the United Nations; however, we would be happy to provide any further information that might be requested.

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Item 4 of the provisional agenda*
Review of quadrennial reports submitted by non-governmental organizations in general and special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council

Quadrennial reports, 1994–1997, submitted through the Secretary-General pursuant to Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31

Note by the Secretary-General

Addendum

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1. Agence internationale pour le développement (AIDE)

(Special consultative status granted 1993)

Founded in 1986 by a group of women and men of different nationalities, the Agence internationale pour le développement (AIDE) is a non-governmental humanitarian and development aid organization. It has held consultative status with the Economic and Social Council (category II) since 1993, and is represented at the United Nations in New York, Geneva and Vienna, as well as in the five regional economic commissions. It makes a modest contribution to the numerous actions undertaken by the United Nations specialized agencies and works tirelessly to eliminate all forms of racial, ethnic, political and religious discrimination.

AIDE has expanded geographically; it now operates in 17 countries with which it has signed letters of acceptance, headquarters agreements and other protocols of agreement (Austria, Belgium, Benin, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Chad, Democratic Republic of the Congo, France, India, Mali, Morocco, Republic of the Congo, Senegal, Slovakia, Spain and Tunisia).

On 19 March 1998, AIDE, taking into account its international spread, established itself as the Fédération des agences internationales du développement, comprising 17 branches, 1,130 volunteers, 3,625 members and 124 member associations around the world.

The Fédération des agences internationales pour le développement serves as a coordinating mechanism for both individuals and associations by disseminating information and sharing experience in its fields of activity.

Thanks to its international reputation, it has been able to encourage the growth of partnership networks and the mobilization of new associations and the public at large.

It plays a decisive role in fostering the participation of international, national and regional non-governmental organizations (NGOs), particularly in the human rights field, by providing them with all kinds of training and support designed to advise and inform them as to the actions to be undertaken and promoted.

Aims

The organization's aims are to:

(a) Organize campaigns on behalf of human rights and democracy;

(b) Work to integrate all segments of society into economic and social development;

(c) Organize information and prevention campaigns against AIDS and drugs;

(d) Provide food, clothing and/or medical assistance to persons in need;

(e) Participate in economic and social development projects in developing countries, particularly in the health, education, training, agriculture and emergency assistance sectors;

(f) Assist in the vocational and social integration of populations in difficult circumstances;

(g) Assist in the establishment of production units in the handicrafts sectors.

The Fédération des agences internationales du développement has as its aim to facilitate dialogue and exchanges of information and experience between its members, and to support the development and strengthening of associations having the same purposes, so as to arrive at common positions and actions with a view to establishing a network of associations that can develop synergies by implementing a programmatic platform.

As its activities are aimed at improving the social climate by encouraging the active participation of all segments of civil society, the Fédération des agences internationales du développement is concerned with: publishing and/or disseminating articles, magazines, books, audiovisual materials and newsletters on such subjects as fighting racism, poverty, drugs and AIDS; organizing meetings, conferences, campaigns and other events for the purpose of disseminating information; and promoting and encouraging exchanges of experience and information by every available means.

Participation in the work of the Economic and Social Council and other United Nations bodies

7–12 August 1994 (Yokohama, Japan) — Tenth International Conference on AIDS (report in English and French);

12–15 October 1994 (Canada) — Conference on "The family: a bridge to the future";

16–17 January 1995 (New York) — Preparatory meeting for the World Summit for Social Development;

6–10 February 1995 (Paris, France) — "Audience Africa", held under the auspices of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

(UNESCO), on the theme "Social Development: Africa's Priorities";

6–12 March 1995 (Copenhagen, Denmark) — World Summit for Social Development (report in French);

18–20 September 1995 (New York) — Forty-eighth annual Conference of NGOs;

14 November 1995 (Lyons, France) — Symposium organized by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Bureau for Europe on "Globalization, State sovereignty and international cooperation: current stakes and scenarios for the future";

23–25 March 1996 (Lisbon, Portugal) — International conference on "Drugs: dependence and interdependence," organized by the United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNIDCP);

6–8 May 1996 (Vichy, France) — International symposium organized by UNESCO on "New partnerships for development: enterprises and non-governmental organizations";

10 May 1996 (Paris, France) — Seminar organized by the World Bank;

17 June 1996 (Paris, France) — Seminar organized by the World Bank;

13–17 November 1996 (Rome, Italy) — World Food Summit, organized by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO);

23–25 March 1997 (Lisbon, Portugal) — International conference on drugs, organized by UNIDCP;

1–3 April 1997 (France) — International symposium organized by UNESCO on "The drug situation in sub-Saharan Africa";

16 May 1997 (Paris, France) — Meeting organized by UNESCO on "Associations for partnership: non-governmental organizations/enterprises";

10–12 September 1997 (New York, Department of Public Information/NGO) — Fiftieth annual conference on the theme "Building together".

Cooperation with United Nations programmes and specialized agencies

AIDE has collaborated with such specialized agencies as UNDP, UNESCO, the World Health Organization (WHO), the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (UNHCHR), the International Labour Organization (ILO), FAO, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF).

In partnership with WHO, the AIDS Central Coordination Bureau and UNDP Zaire, AIDE organized a workshop in Kinshasa from 28 November to 2 December 1994 on caring for AIDS patients, and co-organized national hearings on AIDS prevention.

In the framework of the PEDDRO (Prevention, Education, Drugs) network, and in close collaboration with UNESCO, AIDE organized a programme on drug abuse prevention targeted to secondary-school students in Tunisia during the 1996–1997 school year.

Every year since 1996, AIDE has organized:

The International Conference against Racism, on 21 March;

The International Conference against Drugs, on 26 June;

The International Conference for Poverty Eradication, on 17 October; and

The International Conference against AIDS, on 1 December (since 1995).

Other activities

The Fédération des agences internationales pour le développement is actively involved in advancing the debates carried on by the United Nations system and participates in organizing activities reflecting the concerns of the United Nations system. Accordingly, it carries out action in the following fields:

Fighting poverty: Distribution of packages of food (381 tons) and clothing (89 tons), medicines (1,365 kg) and medical equipment (3,000 kg), educational books (1,305 kg) and educational tools (5,700 kg), and distribution of free meals (6,305);

Fighting racism: Holding of informational meetings (200), design and production of posters (110,000), magazines (45,000), brochures (450,000) and petitions (10,000) (in English, Spanish, Flemish, French and Italian);

Fighting AIDS: Holding of informational meetings (200) and showing of videos, design and production of posters (400,000), magazines (100,000) and brochures (600,000) (in different European and African languages), distribution of condoms (100,000);

Fighting drugs: Holding of informational meetings (100) and showing of videos, design and production of

posters (100,000), magazines (50,000) and brochures (200,000) (in different European and African languages).

Publications

Eight magazines on the overindebtedness of the third world, poverty and exclusion, AIDS and drugs, racism and human rights; 70 poster models and two videocassettes on AIDS and racism.

2. America-Mideast Educational and Training Services, Inc. (AMIDEAST)

(Special consultative status granted 1985)

America-Mideast Educational and Training Services, Inc. (AMIDEAST) is a private, non-profit organization promoting understanding and cooperation between Americans and the people of the Middle East and North Africa through education, information, and development assistance programmes. Headquartered in Washington, D.C., AMIDEAST maintains a network of field offices in Egypt, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Morocco, Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia, the United Arab Emirates, the West Bank/Gaza, and Yemen. AMIDEAST demonstrates its support for the work, purposes, and principles of the United Nations in the implementation of programmes that promote the development of local institutions. AMIDEAST's geographical representation has remained constant while its sources of funding are becoming more non-governmental.

Participation in the Economic and Social Council and/or conferences and other United Nations meetings

AMIDEAST/Lebanon has attended United Nations conferences and workshops over the past few years; AMIDEAST/Morocco attended a United Nations conference on rural education, and AMIDEAST/Washington staff attended numerous United Nations meetings both in New York and Geneva.

Cooperation with United Nations programmes and bodies and specialized agencies

The AMIDEAST Director of Democratic Development met with the Civil Society Programme Director of UNIFEM in New York to present AMIDEAST's Global Women in Politics project. They discussed how they could complement each other and a brief follow-up occurred.

The UNDP Senior Programme Officer in Amman worked with AMIDEAST in the development of a political awareness-raising curriculum for the Global Women in Politics project.

Other relevant activities

(a) Action in implementation of United Nations resolutions;

(b) Consultations and cooperation with officials of the United Nations Secretariat: AMIDEAST/Morocco's Country Director meets with the United Nations resident representative as well as the FNUAP to brief them on AMIDEAST and explore the potential for collaboration;

(c) Preparation of papers: AMIDEAST/Lebanon has submitted information to UNDP for its publication, *The Development Cooperation Report*;

(d) Other examples of consultative activities, including financial assistance received from or given to the United Nations, field-level collaboration, joint sponsorship of meetings, seminars, studies, etc.: AMIDEAST/Egypt cooperated with the Ford Foundation to process participants to the Fourth World Conference on Women; AMIDEAST/Tunisia supported the Tunisian League for Human Rights through training in the United States on programming in the whole range of human rights programmes during 1996; AMIDEAST/West Bank-Gaza worked with UNDP to help strengthen the Palestinian Authority's institutions.

3. Association for Counselling, Organization, Research and Development (ACORD)

(Special consultative status granted 1993)

Task and aims

The Association for Counselling, Organization, Research and Development (ACORD), a mixed-type NGO, has as its task to develop all kinds of ideas and technical means for protecting and improving the living conditions of individuals and families in developing countries, while respecting their culture, traditions and customs. Taking as its two parameters the socio-economic dimension and the health and social dimension, ACORD envisages a new type

of economic, health and social growth for the most disadvantaged countries. Basing its efforts on the three anchors of its action philosophy — analysis, aims, method — it seeks to achieve a multisectoral, broad-spectrum, integrated development appropriate to the populations concerned. ACORD defined health as a priority, focusing on the specific aspect of primary health care as a factor integral to an appropriate development process, and has proposed a new approach based on the creation of permanent, lasting development infrastructure as a complement to the existing socio-economic, health and social fabric. As a development NGO, ACORD has set itself the goal of improving the current development situation in the least developed countries by working in partnership with States concerned with their own development, while enabling the participation of at least 90 per cent of the local population in project execution and the strengthening, promotion and creation of local NGOs, as well as the initiation and/or revitalization of South-South cooperation.

Participation in the work of the Economic and Social Council and its departments (conferences); participation in other United Nations conferences

International Conference on Population and Development (Cairo, Egypt, September 1994): ACORD, maintaining that real self-development can be initiated if health development is implemented, and considering the growing and reciprocal links between population, economic growth and sustainable development, believes that the optimum conditions for local application of the 15 fundamental principles (contained in the report of the International Conference on Population and Development), combined with the eight basic components of primary health care, constitute the socio-economic, health and social context of real, sustainable human development, as outlined in its memorandum, "Action strategy for the well-being of the population of the developing countries".

World Summit for Social Development: ACORD was one of the eight NGOs chosen to participate in the events marking the World Summit. The President of ACORD represented the Association at that important event. Recalling the three major aims of the World Summit, and with a view to the implementation of the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development, ACORD drafted a memorandum, "The right to development as a human right".

Second United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Istanbul, Turkey, 1996): ACORD was represented by its President. Recalling that Habitat had made urbanization a priority in its international and national development programme with a view to promoting new policies and strategies in the field of urban management and housing construction, and in response to the aims formulated by Habitat, ACORD put forward its specific response in its report, "Action strategy for an innovative approach to the design and construction of human settlements".

Contribution by ACORD to the activities of the United Nations Centre for Human Rights: Taking as its starting-point the report of the Secretary-General of the United Nations on the realization of the right to development and the Global Consultation on the Right to Development as a Human Right, and considering the goal of development to be the improvement of human capacities and the human condition, ACORD views the right to development in general, as well as the right to health and the right to work, as a basic human right. It drafted a memorandum addressed to the Under-Secretary-General for Human Rights on the theme "The right to development as a human right". ACORD is included in the first NGO directory of the Centre for Human Rights, issued in 1995.

Response by ACORD to the World Bank proposal for partnership with NGOs: Welcoming the fact that the World Bank is endeavouring to collaborate more actively with NGOs in its field operations, research and analytical studies and consultation efforts, ACORD presented its experience of collaborating with an issue-oriented NGO in its report "Response to the World Bank's partnership with NGOs: Collaboration between an operational NGO and an issue-oriented NGO from the standpoint of analysis, aims, method. Response to the Group on Participation and NGOs, Department of Poverty Reduction and Social Policy".

Cooperation with the United Nations and its system of organizations: In preparing studies for the establishment of primary health-care centres and nutritional centres (Rwanda, Zaire, Comoros), and in its proposal for an African conference on the theme "Child health in the African family: a prerequisite for African development", ACORD defined itself as the meeting-point between the concerns of States concerned with their own development and the concerns of the United Nations and its system of organizations, by focusing on the optimum application at the local level of the guidelines formulated by WHO, UNICEF, the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), UNDP, FAO, UNESCO, Habitat, UNHCR, and so on.

Other activities: On the occasion of its decennial report on activities (from 1984 to the present), addressed to the Secretary-General of the United Nations, the senior members of the departments and the specialized agencies concerned

with development questions and all African States concerned with their own development, ACORD drafted three memoranda: "Current development situation in the least developed countries", "Current development practices in the least developed countries", and "Reflections on the Rwandan genocide: An open letter".

At the end of a decade devoted to strengthening itself as a development NGO, ACORD now wishes to become operational in order to take up the challenges facing future generations. To this end, ACORD has decided to create a new type of solidarity fund for development, a fund created by ACORD for the execution of its projects in the field and for which ACORD is seeking a partnership with the States of the North, States concerned with their own development, civil society and the United Nations and its system of organizations.

4. International Confederation of Christian Family Movements (ICCFM)

(Special consultative status granted 1989)

Introduction

The International Confederation of Christian Family Movements (ICCFM) brings together movements for the aid of the family from all around the world. It was founded experimentally in Caracas (Venezuela) on 7 September 1966. Its goals and purposes are to promote, encourage and help Christian family movements so that those organizations and their members live their human and Christian vocations and bear witness to the essential values of the family, based upon the faith as announced by the Gospel and proposed by the teachings of the Catholic Church. The Confederation shall support the expansion of the Christian family movement in those countries where it is established and will try to establish it where it does not exist.

Participation in United Nations meetings and conferences

The Confederation, as a member in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, has participated as follows: In November 1994, accredited participants attended a working day in Vienna with the Committee for the Family of the United Nations non-governmental organizations; in May 1995, the Confederation participated in a new working day of the same Committee. On previous dates members of the Confederation had actively participated in other working sessions with the Committee for the Family in Vienna, to prepare the World Forum to launch the International Year of the Family. For that work the Confederation was granted a plaque designating it as a United Nations Year of the Family patron. On 11–12 November 1996, the Confederation attended the sixth NGO international seminar with the topic "Integrating family in social progress and development".

The Confederation has also contributed to issues of *NGO International*, the newsletter of the NGO Committee for the Family, Vienna, especially on the subject of parental skills. In May 1996 and November 1996, Confederation members attended non-governmental organization meetings at the United Nations in Vienna.

Other activities

In March 1997, Confederation members attended the First World Congress of Families, held in Prague. It was an ecumenical meeting of people, with different ideas and religions, whose only common ground was the welfare of the family. The Confederation has proposed the formation of a forum of family movements in Europe.

Activities for couples: conducting engaged encounters and marriage preparation seminars; rectifying trial marriages; promoting natural family planning and responsible parenthood; marriage counselling.

Activities for the family: participating in family dialogue; providing family counselling; developing programmes for young families and middle-aged families; organizing family vacations; preparing television programmes on the family; publishing newsletters and other materials on family life; promoting the Pope's teachings on marriage and the family; giving aid to poor and needy families and marginal families.

Activities for youth: organizing encounters of sons and daughters and special programmes for youth; campaigning for sex education in schools; organizing classes and reunions for homeless children and juvenile delinquents; assisting at orphanages; providing shelter for children displaced by war; campaigning against the moral decadence of the youth, especially in sexual mores.

Activities for persons in difficult situations: counselling and forming support groups for solo parents, for mothers who are heads of families, for separated and divorced persons; helping couples and children of broken marriages and families with social problems; helping spouses of overseas workers; protecting abandoned women; providing a pregnancy crisis centre and championing the rights of the unborn; counselling and helping drug addicts,

HIV and AIDS patients, war victims, and refugees; working for CARITAS; organizing activities for leper families, visiting prisons, hospitals, homes for the aged and the handicapped among many others.

5. International Council on Alcohol and Addictions (ICAA)

(Special consultative status granted 1972)

The objectives of the International Council on Alcohol and Addictions (ICAA) are to reduce and prevent the harmful effects resulting from the use of illicit and licit drugs, including alcohol and tobacco, as well as gambling. It organizes international conferences, symposia and expert groups. It conducts research projects. It holds training programmes for health and other professionals on drug and alcohol-related problems, particularly in developing countries. The organization, through its quarterly newsletter, also disseminates updated information on issues concerning drug abuse policies, prevention and treatment programmes and research findings and serves as a network for national non-governmental organizations all over the world.

During the period under review the organization's membership expanded, especially in Eastern and Central European countries, in Africa, in the Indian subcontinent and in the Caribbean region. Membership is now composed of some 500 national organizations in 90 countries.

Participation in the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies and/or conferences and other United Nations meetings

ICAA participated regularly at the annual sessions of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs where the representatives of the organization made oral/written statements each year of the period under review. These statements reflected the activities of ICAA supportive of various resolutions of the Commission, in particular in the field of reduction of demand for illicit drugs. ICAA cooperated in 1997 with the United Nations Focal Point on Tobacco or Health in the round table on social and economic aspects of reduction of tobacco smoking by the use of alternative nicotine delivery systems.

Cooperation with United Nations programmes and bodies and specialized agencies

Consultations with UNDCP were increased, particularly in connection with preparations for the 1994 NGO Forum in Bangkok, as well as for the special session of the General Assembly devoted to the fight against the illicit production, sale, demand, traffic and distribution of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances (New York, 1998).

In 1995, ICAA cooperated with the Programme on Substance Abuse of WHO and the International Organization of Good Templars on the project Strategic Planning on Substance Abuse in South Africa.

Occasional consultations were held with the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Division. ICAA also provided experts for various international meetings and expert groups arranged by specialized agencies, such as WHO and ILO. Contact was made with the PEDRO project of UNESCO during the years under review.

Other relevant activities

Action in implementation of United Nations resolutions: ICAA made several recommendations to its members, urging them to implement, on regional and national levels, various resolutions of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs concerning drug demand reduction. Through its widely circulated quarterly newsletter, *ICAA News*, regular reports were published on the meetings of UNDCP and on numerous meetings of the specialized agencies.

Consultations with the NGO units in Vienna, Geneva and New York.

Preparation of papers and other materials at the request of UNDCP, including ICAA's comments on the Declaration on the Guiding Principles of Drug Demand Reduction.

ICAA has regularly submitted reports of its activities, on request, to the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, as well as comments on the draft declaration on drug demand reduction.

UNDCP representatives participated regularly in ICAA's international meetings: the ICAA International Institute on the Prevention and Treatment of Alcoholism and Drug Dependence (Prague, Czech Republic, 1994, and Trieste, Italy, 1995); the ICAA International Congress on Alcohol and Drug Dependence (San Diego, United States, 1995); the ICAA International Institute on the Prevention and Treatment of Dependencies (Amsterdam, Netherlands, 1996, and Cairo, Egypt, 1997).

During the years under review, ICAA also played an important role in the activities of the NGO Committee on Narcotic Drugs at the United Nations Office in Vienna and the NGO Committee on Substance Abuse at the United Nations in New York.

6. International Federation of Human Rights (IFHR)

(Special consultative status granted 1952)

Introduction

The International Federation of Human Rights (IFHR) was founded in 1922. Since the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights on 10 December 1948, IFHR has taken on the task of ensuring its practical implementation. Thus, during the past 50 years in which it has enjoyed the status of a non-governmental organization accredited to the United Nations in particular, IFHR has significantly expanded its activities, sending numerous missions to many countries and, in recent years, systematizing its legal cooperation and training programmes with local partners, as well as actions carried out through international institutions. At its thirty-third congress, held at Dakar from 20 to 23 November 1997, the Federation's international network was substantially enlarged; it now comprises 105 member organizations, including 64 affiliates and 41 correspondents in 86 countries.

Among the themes that have constituted the Federation's action priorities during the period under review and that have guided its activities within United Nations bodies are: combating impunity, implementing economic and social rights, guaranteeing women's rights as basic human rights and protecting human rights defenders.

The Federation's permanent delegations to the United Nations in Geneva and New York make it possible to conduct daily monitoring of its activities in relation to the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary organs.

With regard to the organs and procedures of the United Nations, the Federation's activities during the period under review (1994–1997) can be summarized as follows.

Participation in the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary organs

IFHR has continued to participate actively in the sessions of the Commission on Human Rights (fiftieth to fifty-third sessions) and the Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities (forty-sixth to forty-ninth sessions), and in the working groups established by those bodies. At those sessions the IFHR delegation was composed mainly of representatives of its member organizations. IFHR seeks to facilitate access by national organizations for the defence of human rights to the deliberations of these bodies.

The sessions that were held during the period under review constituted important information and training opportunities for the officials of the Federation's member organizations, who are its agents in the field. Thus, it also proved possible to organize training seminars. These seminars are aimed at promoting dialogue and cooperation between human rights defenders and representatives of States, and developing optimum cooperation between non-governmental organizations in the field and the organs and procedures of the United Nations.

IFHR also contributed to the studies developed by the United Nations in the framework of the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People, particularly with regard to the proposed establishment of a permanent forum for indigenous people within the United Nations system and the draft declaration on the rights of indigenous people. IFHR therefore participated in the seminar held in Santiago, Chile, on the establishment of a permanent forum, the sessions of the Subcommission's Working Group on Indigenous Populations and the sessions of the Commission's working group charged with elaborating a draft declaration on the rights of indigenous people.

Moreover, IFHR made a substantial contribution to the work of the Commission on Human Rights and the Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities by presenting mainly written statements and a number of oral statements on various agenda items, always with a view to facilitating the work of those bodies. The reports on IFHR activities during the sessions of the two organs are available from the NGO Section of the United Nations Secretariat.

Participation in sessions of treaty bodies

IFHR participated in sessions of the following treaty bodies: Human Rights Committee, Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, Committee for the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, Committee on the Rights of the Child, Committee against Torture. During the sessions, it furnished the expert members of those bodies with information that might be useful to them in the consideration of periodic reports by States. At some sessions, IFHR coordinated the movements of representatives of its member organizations. At several sessions of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, it presented written and oral statements.

Cooperation with the programmes and organs of the United Nations and specialized agencies

IFHR is now a non-governmental organization in official consultative status with UNESCO. In that capacity, during the period under review, IFHR took part in the preparations for and holding of the Special Conference of NGOs.

In addition, IFHR is on the ILO special list of NGOs. In that capacity, it participates in the International Labour Conference each year.

Other activities

Actions on behalf of the implementation of United Nations resolutions

During the period under review, IFHR cooperated on a regular basis with the mechanisms established by United Nations resolutions, particularly the thematic and country special rapporteurs, by transmitting to them information useful in the performance of their mandates (IFHR mission reports, reports of its member organizations, and so on) and complaints of human rights violations.

Each year IFHR transmitted communications under the procedure established under Economic and Social Council resolution 1503 (XLVIII). IFHR participated in the legislative working groups of the Commission on Human Rights, particularly the working group charged with elaborating a draft declaration on the rights of indigenous people, the working group charged with elaborating a draft declaration on the right and responsibility of individuals, groups and organs of society to promote and protect universally recognized human rights and fundamental freedoms, and the working group charged with elaborating an optional protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment.

IFHR participated in the deliberations of the Working Group of the Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities. Moreover, it responded to the appeal launched by the Working Group and contacted its 105 affiliates around the world to urge them to contribute to the work of the fourth session of that body, held in May 1998, on the theme of minority rights in education.

IFHR participated in the sessions of the Working Group on Contemporary Forms of Slavery of the Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities.

IFHR participated in the sessions of the Working Group on Indigenous Populations of the Commission and the Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities.

IFHR participated in the sessions of the Preparatory Committee on the Establishment of an International Criminal Court.

IFHR contributed to the preparation, organization and follow-up of the Fourth World Conference on Women (Beijing, September 1995).

Consultations and cooperation with officials of the United Nations Secretariat

IFHR held several meetings with the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights. It transmitted information on a regular basis to the special rapporteurs of the Commission on Human Rights through their assistants in the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights.

Preparation of documents at the request of the Secretary-General

IFHR transmitted information on various themes at the request of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights.

Moreover, IFHR provided information on a regular basis to be used in various studies prepared by the Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities.

7. International Federation of Resistance Movements

(Special consultative status granted 1972)

The International Federation of Resistance Movements (FIR) comprises 84 national organizations of former resistance fighters and victims of fascism in the following countries: Albania, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Cyprus, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Israel, Italy, Kazakhstan, Latvia, Mongolia, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russia, Slovakia, Spain and Ukraine.

FIR was founded in Vienna in 1951. Its aims and tasks, confirmed at each of its congresses, were defined in article IV of its charter, which states, *inter alia*:

"To unite its members in peace, as they were in combat in the Resistance, so as to ensure independence for their nations and liberty and peace in the world;

"To campaign actively to defend and ensure human freedom and dignity, against all racial, political, philosophical or religious discrimination, and against the rebirth of fascism and nazism in all their forms;

"To help to achieve the objectives of the Charter of the United Nations, establish friendly and peaceful relations between peoples, develop cultural exchanges between nations and tighten the bonds of fraternity and solidarity among resistance fighters in all countries."

FIR has a permanent representative to the special NGO committees for human rights and disarmament at Geneva (Mr. Louis Mouchet), the UNESCO NGO Standing Committee (Mr. Roger Maria) and the Consultative Committee of the Council of Europe in Strasbourg (Mr. François Amoudruz). Its representatives participate regularly in the conferences of NGOs held at Geneva, Paris and Strasbourg.

1994

30–31 May: Special NGO Committee for Disarmament seminar.

1 September: Meeting of the Special NGO Committee for Human Rights Organizations (first meeting of NGOs interested in preparing for the World Summit for Social Development, convened by the Conference of Non-Governmental Organizations in Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council (CONGO)). Likewise, a general NGO consultation on racism, xenophobia, ethnic and racial intolerance and the resulting conflicts, organized by the Non-Governmental Subcommittee on Racism, Racial Discrimination and Decolonization in cooperation with the United Nations Centre for Human Rights.

The FIR permanent representative to UNESCO presented the views of the International Federation at meetings of the UNESCO/NGO joint working group on education for human rights, tolerance, democracy and peace, and at the meeting of the UNESCO NGO Standing Committee.

1995

31 July and 18–21 October: Participation in the meeting of the Special NGO Committee for Human Rights (Geneva).

1996

June: Participation in the twenty-fifth UNESCO/NGO Conference in Paris.

1997

20 February: In relation to the question of UNESCO/NGO cooperation, the FIR representative sent a letter to the Director-General of UNESCO, informing him that "FIR is in fact the only NGO which makes available to UNESCO the personal views of veterans, former resistance fighters and former deportees to the Nazi camps".

From 3 to 5 November, the FIR representative participated in the CONGO General Assembly held at Geneva.

On 21 November, the FIR representative attended the Special Conference of NGOs held at UNESCO headquarters. During this meeting, he stressed that "FIR is fully resolved to continue its participation in a fruitful cooperation".

On 28 October 1997, the FIR representative took part in the meeting of the French Circle for Security and Cooperation in Europe.

1994

On 19 March, the FIR Bureau held a meeting in Vienna, at the conclusion of which it adopted the following documents: "The dialogue between Israel and the PLO should continue"; "Ending the bloody conflict in the former Yugoslavia"; "In favour of respect for human rights and historical truth"; and a declaration, "On the eve of the elections to the European Parliament".

From 21 to 24 October, FIR participated in the sponsorship committee for the international symposium "Europe against discrimination, for democracy and freedom", held at Strasbourg.

1995

The FIR Bureau met in Berlin on 29 April against the backdrop of the fiftieth anniversary of the victory over Hitler's fascism. Upon the conclusion of their work, the participants adopted a document entitled "Building a new world in peace and freedom".

1996

On 22 and 23 June, the twelfth statutory Congress of FIR was held at Vienna. It adopted several important documents, including: "European Year against Racism, Xenophobia and Anti-Semitism", in which FIR called on its

national associations to carry out activities with other democratic forces in support of the European Year against Racism; "For the protection of national minorities"; "For the prohibition of anti-personnel land mines".

All the documents adopted by the policy-making bodies of FIR are in keeping with the spirit guiding the principles of the United Nations, to which FIR has always been committed.

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Review of quadrennial reports submitted by non-governmental organizations in general and special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council

Quadrennial reports, 1994–1997 submitted through the Secretary-General pursuant to Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31

Note by the Secretary-General

Addendum

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1. Afro-Asian People's Solidarity Organization

(Special consultative status granted 1973)

Aims and purpose of the organization

Aims are:

(a) To unite broad democratic forces irrespective of political and religious, social and geographical differences against all forms of subjugation including intolerance and hate, for the common aim of cooperation and solidarity in order to create a peaceful, happy and prosperous life for humankind;

(b) To support the national liberation movements and democratic forces struggling for the preservation and defence of world peace, national culture, sovereignty and territorial integrity, world economic security, ecology, human rights, universal justice, transparency, and free flow of information without distortion or hindrance;

(c) To work consistently for mobilizing popular support for the principles of the United Nations and its agencies:

There is no change in the geographical membership, and no change in the funding process.

Geographical extension

Affiliated national member organizations are mainly in Africa and Asia. There are associated members from Latin America, North America, Eastern and Western Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS).

Structure

The structure comprises:

(a) The Congress;

(b) The Presidium;

(c) The permanent secretariat;

(d) The national and associate member organizations.

For further details, kindly refer to the constitution.

Main activities

Main activities consist of:

(a) South-South cooperation: highlighting the problems of the South countries;

(b) On the basis of observer status with the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries (NAM), popularizing the activities of NAM and propagating the principles of NAM;

(c) Organizing conferences, seminars, round tables, discussions and meetings on disarmament, peace, development, human rights and ecology;

(d) Cooperating closely with international and national non-governmental organizations;

(e) Consultation conferences including seminars on a regional basis among Afro-Asian People's Solidarity Organization (AAPSO) national organizations such as the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC), the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN), and those in Arab, Middle Eastern and sub-Saharan African countries;

(f) Publications and documentation.

Relations with the United Nations and its specialized agencies and other intergovernmental organizations

These relations may be described as follows:

(a) In special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council;

(b) In consultative status with the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO); the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO); and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD).

Relations with other international non-governmental organizations

AAPSO is a member of the Conference of Non-Governmental Organizations in Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council (CONGO) and maintains close relations and cooperates with all the non-governmental organizations of CONGO.

AAPSO activities during the period from 1994–1997

AAPSO held the following seminars in that period:

(a) Arab or Middle Eastern Grouping: Cairo, Egypt, April 1994;

(b) A seminar on the "Defence of the Arab Identity of Jerusalem", Cairo, Egypt, June 1995;

(c) Meetings of the Arab solidarity committees: Cairo, Egypt, 1994; Damascus, Syrian Arab Republic, 1995; Beirut, Lebanon, 1996;

(d) Seminar on "The role of non-governmental organizations in the settlement of conflicts in Africa", Cairo, Egypt, 16 May 1994;

(e) Preparation for the second Mediterranean conference on "Solidarity and cooperation in the Mediterranean region": Cairo, Egypt, 18–20 March 1994;

(f) Seminar on "Environment and regional cooperation" (AAPSO with Egyptian Centre for Research and Information, Cairo, Egypt, 7–8 May 1994;

(g) "Economic cooperation in the Middle East: prospects and challenges", Cairo, Egypt, 14–16 May 1994;

(h) General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) and developing countries, Cairo, Egypt, 7 June 1994;

(i) International campaign for nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation (Coordinating Committee of the International Campaign for Disarmament and Non-Proliferation), Cairo, Egypt, 22 June 1994;

(j) "Preparation for the World Summit for Social Development", Cairo, Egypt, 10 January 1995;

(k) "The future on the Non-Aligned Movement", Cairo, Egypt, January 1995;

(l) "Beijing: What next? action: enough recommendations", Cairo, Egypt, 7 May 1996;

(m) "The fiftieth anniversary of the defeat of Fascism": Cairo, Egypt, 4 May 1995;

(n) "Development in the Great Lakes region and its impact on the socio-economic status of Africa", Cairo, Egypt, 16 June 1997;

(o) "Clash of civilization or dialogue of culture", Cairo, Egypt, 10–12 March 1997.

International conferences

Representatives of the permanent secretariat attended the following:

(a) International Conference on Population and Development, Cairo, Egypt, 1994;

(b) World Summit for Social Development, Copenhagen, 1995;

(c) Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, China, 1995;

(d) AAPSO Asian Regional Conference, Hanoi, Viet Nam, 1995;

(e) The United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II): Istanbul, Turkey, 1996;

(f) Muslim and Christian conference concerning Jerusalem, Beirut, 1996;

(g) Twelfth Ministerial Conference of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, New Delhi, India, 1997;

(h) International Coordinating Committee for NGOs on the Question of Palestine (ICCP) conference, Jakarta, Indonesia, 1997;

(i) The National Front of the Arab Labour Syndicates and Unions meeting, Tripoli, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, 19–22 July, 1997;

(j) United Nations international non-governmental organization meeting/European non-governmental organization symposium on the question of Palestine, Geneva, 25–28 August 1997;

(k) Organization of Solidarity of the Peoples of Africa, Asia and Latin America (OSPAAL) international meeting: Twenty-first century legacy and validity of "Che Guevara", Havana, Cuba, 25–27 September 1997;

(l) Twentieth General Assembly of the Conference of Non-Governmental Organizations in Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council (CONGO), International Labour Organization (ILO), Geneva, 3–5 November 1997;

(m) International Conference on Stereotypes and Alterity: Perceptions of Otherness in the Mediterranean, Malta, 27–29 November 1997;

(n) All meetings of the UNICEF project: Group to Alleviate the Burden of Poor Women, Egypt, 10 October–20 November 1997.

2. Arab Lawyers Union

(Special consultative status granted 1971)

In accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31 of 25 July 1996, Arab Lawyers Union, an international non-governmental organization in special consultative status with the Council, submits to the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations, the following report on its activities as regards the support given to the work of the United Nations during the period 1994–1997.

The Arab Lawyers Union (ALU) is a pan-Arab confederation of Arab bar associations and law societies established in 1944. ALU has now achieved the affiliation of 27 member organizations with a total individual membership of over 300,000 lawyers. ALU targets pooling its member bar associations' efforts and orchestrates their activities to enhance the independence of the legal profession, rule of law, human rights, fundamental freedoms and popular participation in the Arab world and internationally, by forging an Arab public consensus based on internationally recognized norms and principles enshrined in the United Nations human rights instruments spelling out the duties and obligations undertaken by each State party.

Nowadays ALU exerts efforts to survive financial difficulties owing to the deteriorating financial situation of the member bar associations and law societies caused by sanctions imposed on Iraq and the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, the deadlock of the peace process in the Middle East and other international crises.

Nonetheless, by virtue of ALU's membership in the Board and Bureau of the Conference of Non-Governmental Organizations in Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council and its main special committees ALU has been a co-partner in all the initiatives embarked upon by CONGO members during this period.

Besides the active role ALU plays in relation to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and the International Labour Organization (ILO), ALU participated in the following meetings and activities of the United Nations during 1994–1997.

1994:

(a) 31 January–11 March 1994, Geneva, Commission on Human Rights, fiftieth session;

(b) 8 and 9 February 1994, Alexandria, seminar of United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) regional office and the Egyptian Society for International Law on the Convention on the Rights of the Child;

(c) 21 and 22 February 1994, Geneva, preparation for United Nations Conference on Palestinian Rights, Division for Palestinian Rights of the United Nations Secretariat and International Coordinating Committee for NGOs on the Question of Palestine (ICCP);

(d) September 1994, Cairo, International Conference on Population and Development.

1995:

(a) 30 January–10 March 1995, Geneva, Commission on Human Rights, fifty-first session;

(b) 14–23 March 1995, Vienna, Commission on Narcotic Drugs, thirty-eighth session;

(c) 30 May–9 June 1995, Vienna, Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, fourth session;

(d) 6–22 June 1995, Geneva, International Labour Conference, eighty-second session;

(e) 10–28 July 1995, Expert Seminar on Human Rights, Human Rights Committee;

(f) 31 July–25 August 1995, Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, forty-seventh session;

(g) 12 and 13 October 1995, Executive Committee of Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) meeting with non-governmental organizations prior to forty-sixth session;

(h) 16–20 October 1995, forty-sixth session of the Executive Committee of UNHCR;

(i) 18 October 1995, Special Committee of International Non-Governmental Organizations on Human Rights;

(j) 16 October–3 November 1995, Expert Seminar on Human Rights, Human Rights Committee;

(k) 20 November 1995, special session for the celebration of the fiftieth anniversary of United Nations.

1996:

(a) 18 March–26 April 1996, Geneva, Commission on Human Rights, fifty-second session;

(b) 27 March 1996, Geneva, Special Committee of International Non-Governmental Organizations on Human Rights;

(c) 30 April–3 May 1996, Geneva, Centre for Human Rights, Working Group on Minorities;

June 1996, Geneva, Conference, eighty-third session;

(d) 5–30 August 1996, Geneva, Commission on Human Rights, Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, forty-eighth session;

(e) 2–4 September 1996, Geneva, United Nations international non-governmental organization meeting: European Symposium on the Question of Palestine;

(f) 3 and 4 October 1996, Geneva, preparatory meeting with non-governmental organizations and Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), forty-seventh session;

(g) 7–11 October 1996, Geneva, Executive Committee of UNHCR, forty-seventh session;

15 October 1996, Special Committee of International Non-Governmental Organizations on Human Rights.

1997:

(a) 17–21 February 1997, Geneva, Expert Seminar on Human Rights: Dimensions of the Population Transfer, including the Implantation of Settlers and Settlement;

(b) 23 February 1997, Special Committee of International Non-Governmental Organizations on Human Rights;

(c) 10 March–18 April 1997, Commission on Human Rights, fifty-third session;

(d) 17–21 March 1997, third session of the Board of Trustees of the United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund on Contemporary Forms of Slavery;

(e) 5–9 May 1997, Commission on Human Rights, United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, seminar on transfer and prevention of discrimination and protection of minorities;

(f) 27 May 1997, Special Committee on International Non-Governmental Organizations on Human Rights;

(g) 3–19 June 1997, International Labour Conference, eighty-fifth session;

(h) 21 July–1 August 1997, Commission on Human Rights, Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, Working Group on Indigenous Populations;

(i) 4–29 August 1997, Commission on Human Rights, Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, forty-ninth session;

(j) 25–28 August 1997, United Nations international non-governmental organization meeting, European non-governmental organization symposium on the question of Palestine (ending 30 years of occupation, the role of non-governmental organizations);

(k) 2–5 September 1997, United Nations international non-governmental organization meeting and European non-governmental organization symposium on the question of Palestine;

(l) 8–10 October 1997, Pre-Executive Committee meeting with non-governmental organizations (UNHCR), forty-eighth session;

(m) 13–17 October 1997, UNHCR Executive Committee, forty-eighth session;

20 October–7 November 1997, Human Rights Committee, sixty-first session;

(n) 10–21 November 1997, Committee against Torture;

(o) 26 November–5 December 1997, Commission on Human Rights, Working Group on Arbitrary Detention.

3. Associated Country Women of the World

(Special consultative status granted 1947)

Introduction

Associated Country Women of the World (ACWW) is an international non-governmental organization representing some 9 million rural women in 71 countries (65 in previous quadrennial report) in Africa, Asia, Europe, North, Central and South America, the South Pacific and the Caribbean. ACWW aims to raise the living standard of women and their families through literacy, education and training; through community development projects for income earning and for the promotion of agriculture, health, nutrition and childcare; through the elimination of discrimination and of inequality of opportunity; through promotion of international cooperation and understanding. In the period under review, a special (and ongoing) priority has been the girl child. Project activity worldwide is financed from ACWW resources plus periodic grants from the United Nations, aid and development agencies and other charitable sources.

Participation (ACWW attended all meetings mentioned throughout the present report and participation in most) in the United Nations and the Economic and Social Council

Participation comprised the following:

(a) consultative status since 1947;

(b) 1994–1997: observer at sessions of the Third Committee of the General Assembly on women's issues;

(c) 1994: Open-ended Working Group to review the role of non-governmental organizations in the United Nations system; participation in General Assembly review of the International Year of the Family, 1994; sessions of the Preparatory Committee for the Fiftieth Anniversary of the United Nations;

(d) 1995: co-signatory of non-governmental organization statement to fiftieth session of the General Assembly on "Social development, including questions relating to the world social situation and to youth, ageing, disabled persons and the family";

(e) 1996: non-governmental organization representatives and United Nations delegates panel meeting to discuss final report on the impact of armed conflict on children;

(f) 1997: sessions of the First and Second Committee of the General Assembly; briefings on United Nations reform programme; nineteenth special session of the General Assembly on the review of Implementation of Agenda 21 (Earth Summit +5), including Women's Caucus, briefings, seminars; member Conference of Non-Governmental Organizations in Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council (CONGO);

(g) 1994–1997: CONGO Board and special meetings, Geneva and New York.

Commission on the Status of Women

Participation comprised the following:

(a) Thirty-eighth session, New York, April 1994: co-signatory to statements of non-governmental organizations: "Women's future: the girl child is key" and "Women in urban areas: population, nutrition and health factors for women in development, including migration, drug consumption and AIDS; a comprehensive human rights approach to women's health"; participated in sessions of the Preparatory Committee for the Fourth World Conference on Women and non-governmental organization women's caucus;

(b) Thirty-ninth session and third and final sessions of the Preparatory Committee for Fourth World Conference on Women, New York, March 1995: co-signatory of statement of non-governmental organizations in Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council and United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) in support of UNIFEM and urging Governments to increase financial support; member non-governmental organization working group on the girl child which created the caucus for girls and held two workshops on redressing the balance of power through education; co-signatory of non-governmental organization statement entitled "A pledge to gender justice";

(c) Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4–15 September 1995: full ACWW delegation to Conference and NGO Forum, Huairou, China; ongoing discussions with various United Nations system personnel and government delegates throughout; ACWW workshops on "The girl child" and "Women and unpaid work"; ACWW statement to Conference "The potential and strategic importance of the girl child"; co-signatory of non-governmental organization statement on role and importance of families to society;

(d) Fortieth and forty-first sessions, New York, 1996/1997: attended as observer; 1997: Parallel meeting of the Open-ended Working Group on the Elaboration of a Draft Optional Protocol to the Convention on the

Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (Women's Convention), Division for the Advancement of Women/CONGO daily briefings; active participation in official consultative non-governmental organization committees on the status of women at United Nations, New York, Geneva, Vienna, Paris, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).

Commission on Population and Development

Participation comprised the following:

International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD), Cairo, 5–13 September 1994:

Third session of the Preparatory Committee and NGO Women's Caucus, New York, April 1994; submission of ACWW statement on equality, equity and education of women and girls; ACWW delegation to Conference, NGO Forum and Women's Caucus; participation in International Conference on Population and Development Population Task Force, New York, 1994–1995; fourteenth annual non-governmental organization/United Nations Population Consultation, New York, May 1995; NGO Committee on Population and Development, New York; ongoing cooperation with Commission through the Advocacy for Women's Health Group, convened by Commonwealth Medical Association, London.

Commission for Social Development

(a) World Summit for Social Development, 6–12 March 1995, Copenhagen: 1994, first and second sessions of the Preparatory Committee, New York, January and August, daily Women's Caucus and regional caucus meetings; co-signatory of non-governmental organization statements entitled "The rights of the child, social integration, poverty, unemployment"; "Family and social development"; third Preparatory Committee, New York, January 1995: five regional caucuses and the Small Farmers, Producers and Micro-entrepreneurs Caucus; World Summit for Social Development and co-signatory of non-governmental organization statement entitled "Investing in women's health: a win-win strategy";

(b) Commission for Social Development, thirty-fourth session, April 1995, New York; co-signatory non-governmental organization statement on "Monitoring of international plans and programmes of action" relating to International Year of the Family;

(c) Special session of the Commission for Social Development, New York, May 1996; co-signatory non-governmental organization statement on "Strategies and actions for the eradication of poverty";

(d) Commission for Social Development, thirty-fifth session, New York, February 1997: co-signatory non-governmental organization statement on "Follow-up to World Summit for Social Development: Review of relevant United Nations plans and programmes of action pertaining to the situation of social groups".

Commission on Human Rights

Participation comprised:

1994–1997: member Special Committee of International Non-Governmental Organizations on Human Rights and its Subcommittee on Status of Women, Geneva; co-signatory non-governmental organization statements to Commission on Human Rights, fifty-second session, March 1996; ACWW project: financial support provided for Awareness Campaign and Workshop on Female Genital Mutilation in Ghana, June 1996.

Commission on Narcotic Drugs

Participation comprised:

International Conference on United Nations International Drug Control Programme, New York, May 1994; thirty-ninth and fortieth sessions, Vienna, 1996/1997: Member Vienna NGO Committee on Drugs; participation in meetings, 1994–1997; vigorous promotion of International Day Against Drug Abuse; first Preparatory Committee meeting for NGO Forum in connection with 1998 General Assembly special session on drugs, Vienna, March 1997; Non-Governmental Organization Inter-sessional Preparatory Committee meetings, Vienna, July and October 1997; persistent condemnation of narcotic abuse and the need for drug control through ACWW's in-house magazine.

Regional commissions

Participation:

Economic Commission for Europe (ECE): annual meeting, Geneva, April 1994; participation ECE High-Level Preparatory Meeting for the Fourth World Conference on Women, Vienna, October 1994; ACWW statement on "From invisibility to official recognition"; joint statement prepared by ACWW on "The integration of a women's dimension into all regional intergovernmental organizations, agencies and forums of cooperation"; joint statement prepared by ACWW and the International Federation of Agricultural Producers on "Women in rural and agricultural development"; co-signatory to statement of NGO Working Group on Nutrition,

Geneva (chaired by ACWW), on "Women in a changing world: call for action from an ECE perspective".

United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), Istanbul, June 1996

Activities:

Special briefing regarding Habitat II final session of Preparatory Committee, New York, November–December 1995; Habitat II and NGO Forum.

Commission on Sustainable Development

Activities:

Second, third and fifth sessions, 1994, 1995, 1997; NGO Committee on Sustainable Development, 1994 and 1996, all New York.

Cooperation with United Nations programmes and bodies and specialized agencies

United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) (consultative status since 1953):

1994–1997: annual sessions UNICEF Executive Board, New York; member NGO Committee on UNICEF, New York and Geneva; member International Network for Girls, created to follow up progress since Beijing Conference; Geneva: NGO Groups for the Convention on the Rights of the Child, Committee on the Rights of the Child, NGO Working Group on the Girl Child, on Refugee Children, on Children in Armed Conflict, on Child Soldiers, on Child Labour and on Sexual Exploitation of Children; New York: UNICEF Working Group on Girls; two micro projects part-funded by ACWW in Republic of South Africa: community centre for street children, Bloemfontein. £3,500 towards human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (HIV/AIDS) awareness children's comic book in three languages.

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) (consultative status 1949, operational status 1997):

Member NGO Standing Committee; observer 1995/1997 General Conferences; participation UNESCO regional workshop organized by Austrian National Commission for UNESCO and Federal Ministry for Agriculture, Vienna, September 1995; UNESCO/NGO Extraordinary Meeting, Paris, November 1997: consultations with (a) Director of Unit for Promotion of the Status of Women and Gender Equality, November 1997; (b) Director for Women, Division of Social Science, Research and Policy, December 1997; (c) Chief of Section of International Non-Governmental Organizations and Foundations, December 1997; UNESCO Co-Action Programme, 1994/1997: ACWW sponsored two international units: (a) "Water for All": US$ 83,794 to third world for clean water, sanitation and training in construction/use/maintenance of basic related technology, solar wind pumps, tube wells; (b) "Women Feed the World": US$ 62,192 to third world for improved production methods through skill training and equipment, dairy, sheep and poultry farming, grinding mills; extensive consultations 1996/1997 with Secretariat over renewal of status under new non-governmental organization directives;

Written submission concerning role, responsibilities and organization of non-governmental organizations in cooperation with UNESCO.

United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) (consultative status since 1989):

1994–1997: member of and regular participant at UNIFEM non-governmental organization committee meetings and briefings.

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) (consultative status since 1947):

Twenty-eighth and twenty-ninth sessions, FAO Conference, Rome, 1995/1997, and associated non-governmental organization meetings; 1994/1997: FAO Council, Rome: submitted proposals for inclusion in draft policy document and plan of action of universal food security (CL108/12), one hundred and eighth session, June 1995; Ministerial Meeting on World Food Security and International Symposium, Quebec, October 1995; Committee on World Food Security, Rome: 1996/1997 sessions and International Support Committee meetings; FAO Committee on Agriculture, Rome: thirteenth and fourteenth sessions, 1995 and 1997; Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, Rome: sixth session, June 1995, ACWW oral statement; seventh session, May 1997; second, third and fourth extraordinary sessions, 1996/1997; World Food Summit, Rome, 13–17 November 1996: ACWW Consultation with Chief of Integration of Women in Development Service, February 1996; non-governmental organization/World Food Summit secretariat consultation, New York, March 1996; full delegation to World Food Summit and concurrent NGO Forum on Food Security; ACWW statement presented; informal consultations with Director, Women and Population Division, Sustainable Development Department; Chief of Unit for Cooperation with Private Sector and NGOs;

Director, Office for Coordination of Normative, Operational and Decentralized Activities, 1996.

World Food Programme (WFP), Rome:

Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes, thirty-seventh, thirty-eighth and fortieth sessions, 1994/1995; consultation with Executive Director, Policy and Public Affairs Division, November 1996.

International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), Rome:

IFAD/NGO Consultation, April 1994.

World Health Organization (WHO):

WHO Global Commission on Women's Health, Geneva, April 1994; observer WHO Global Programme on AIDS Management Committee Meetings, Geneva, 1994/1995; formal WHO/NGO consultation concerning new Global Policy for Health in the Twenty-first Century, and participation in working group and policy discussion, Geneva, May 1997; NGO Forum for Health, Geneva, May 1997; Fourth International Conference on Health Promotion sponsored by WHO and Indonesia, Jakarta, July 1997.

Other relevant activities

Action in implementation of United Nations resolutions (that is to say, action at international, regional or national level):

(a) In addition to activities listed, further examples of support for the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, 1979, Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, 1994, Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, 1995;

(b) 1995, ACWW Twenty-first Triennial Conference: discussion groups on protection of women, health services, agricultural production to sustain the world's population;

(c) ACWW International Workshop on Women in Agricultural Development, New Zealand, 1–7 February 1995: participants from 18 developing countries;

(d) ACWW Ad Hoc Committee on Agriculture established 1995 following a resolution to study ways of empowering rural women to achieve a balanced participation in agricultural decision-making;

(e) ACWW Area Conferences 1994–1997: held Australia, Canada, India, Northern Ireland, Republic of Korea, Swaziland and United States of America, to promote and/or consolidate the empowerment and education of women, the girl child: food security;

(f) ACWW Five-Year Global Development Programme: US$ 450,000 from Norwegian Telethon to promote leadership, skill training, and health awareness among women in developing countries; 1995, Fiji, Phase Five successfully completed with follow-up under way; a further grant in 1996 for evaluation workshops in Malaysia, Colombia, India, South Africa and Fiji;

(g) ACWW Five-Year Eastern Europe Leadership Development Programme: approximately US$ 78,000 from ACWW, UNESCO, European Commission and Charity Know-How, United Kingdom; November 1994, Prague: seven-day leadership training workshop for 22 participants from 13 countries; June–December 1995: seed funding for 11 projects in 10 countries in the field of leadership training, income-generation, conflict resolution, health and nutrition; November 1995, Moscow: Conference on "Women in Decision-Making"; July/August 1996, Northern Ireland: workshop to develop and strengthen leadership, management and entrepreneurial skills; December 1997, Bulgaria: evaluation workshop, 14 participants from 10 countries;

(h) 1994–1997: ACWW-supported micro-projects worldwide in leadership training, literacy, water use and conservation, nutrition and health, food and livestock, income-generation, grants for labour-saving equipment and technology;

(i) World Rural Women's Day, 15 October: proposed at the 1995 Beijing Women's Conference by ACWW, International Federation of Agricultural Producers and other concerned representatives; supported by FAO; formally initiated Rome, 1996;

(j) International Year of the Family: continuous follow-up through ACWW societies and the NGO Committee on the Family, New York and Vienna, and annual International Year of the Family international seminars;

(k) Consultations and cooperation with officials of the United Nations Secretariat: 1994–1997: Annual NGO Department of Public Information Conferences, New York; thirteenth annual NGO/United Nations Population Consultation, "Countdown to Cairo", New York, May 1994;

(l) Preparation of papers and/or other material at the request of the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies or of the United Nations section: nil specific requests within ACWW's immediate area of competence; however, ongoing contributions were made mainly through (i) formal non-governmental organization network (CONGO), (ii) participation in official NGO Status

of Women network, New York, Geneva, Vienna, Paris, (iii) submission of ACWW statements/joint statements to global United Nations conferences and events, including preparatory committees and associated regional meetings;

(m) Other consultative and substantive activities and so on: activities in conjunction with specialized agencies reported under item entitled "Cooperation with United Nations programmes and bodies and specialized agencies.

Highlights of quadrennial report, 1990–1993 (as requested)

Highlights:

(a) Advocacy and project activity in support of United Nations Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (General Assembly resolution 34/180, 1979);

(b) 1990: ACWW Five-year Global Development Programme launched;

(c) Preparations, advocacy and action for two then forthcoming United Nations conferences: International Conference on Population and Development, Cairo, 1994; Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 1995.

4. Catholic Relief Services

(Special consultative status granted 1978)

Introduction

Catholic Relief Services (CRS) is the official overseas relief and development agency of the United States Catholic Conference (USCC). CRS was founded in 1943 to assist refugees and displaced peoples in Europe after the Second World War. The Mission of CRS is to alleviate human suffering, aid the development of peoples, and foster charity and justice in the world. CRS assists people on the basis of need, not creed, race, nationality, sex, or political views.

After the Second World War, CRS identified global needs and expanded rapidly throughout Africa, Asia, Europe, the Middle East and Latin America. During the period 1994–1997, in response to needs and world events, CRS expanded its operations in Eastern Europe (Bosnia, Croatia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Kosovo, and Albania), Asia (the Democratic People's Republic of Korea owing to famine and also in Indonesia), Africa (the Great Lakes region and the Democratic Republic of the Congo (former Zaire), and Latin American and the Caribbean (disaster relief in Haiti and the Dominican Republic). Today, CRS provides assistance in 82 countries and territories worldwide. CRS receives funding from public and private donors in the United States of America and overseas. Annual programme value averages from US$ 220–US$ 300 million.

Working with local counterpart organizations, CRS promotes justice through the provision of refugee aid and disaster relief, and long-term sustainable development assistance programmes in various sectors: health, agriculture, education, village banking (with women's village solidarity groups) and general welfare aid to the destitute and the marginalized. Cross-cutting themes in all CRS programmes include promotion of civil society, peace and reconciliation, and gender equity.

In many countries, CRS has cooperative relationships with United Nations agencies, such as the World Food Programme (WFP), the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF). As requested, CRS field offices share information with United Nations agencies and participate actively in United Nations forums, meetings and seminars, especially at the country level.

From 1994 to 1997, CRS increasingly diversified its funding base to a global network of public and private donors that share a common world vision and values. CRS actively collaborates with the United Nations agencies and other international donors. CRS is also an active member of international Catholic development and relief consortia, including Caritas Internationalis (CI) and the Northern Hemisphere Catholic development agency consortium, known as CIDSE (International Cooperation for Development and Solidarity).

Participation in United Nations forums

CRS participated periodically in non-governmental organization-Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat disaster meetings in New York. CRS attended the "Rio Plus 5" Conference in New York in 1997. CRS Viet Nam staff represented CRS at the Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing, China, in 1995. The CRS Department of Governmental Relations Director and Food Security Advisor both represented CRS at the World Food Summit in Rome in 1996. Catholic development agency consortia (CIDSE and Caritas Internationalis) submitted a paper to the World Summit for Social Development in March 1995.

Cooperation with United Nations programmes and agencies

The major operational relationships of CRS are with WFP and UNHCR on famine and disaster relief, and aid to refugees. In June 1995, the Executive Director of CRS signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the WFP Director, primarily regarding emergency relief. In March 1996, the Memorandum of Understanding was expanded to include non-emergency development and to put a higher priority on improving the situation of women. CRS participated in non-governmental organization operational partnership agreement negotiations with UNHCR. CRS has engaged in partnerships with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), UNDP and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). UNICEF provides in-kind support such as high-energy biscuits, powdered milk, vitamin A and deworming medicine. Cumulatively, United Nations agency cash grants alone to CRS in 1997 totalled $4,774,171.

Other relevant activities

Through different channels and using different approaches, the United Nations and CRS often engage in complementary efforts to transform conflict, promote peace and reconciliation, support the development of civil society and buttress human rights and democracy. These common

aims are most often pursued jointly in the context of disaster relief and long-term development programmes.

Consultations and cooperation with the United Nations

The United Nations provided funding and engaged in partnership with CRS, primarily at the field level, from 1994 to 1997 in several regions of the world:

(a) Africa: In Southern Africa, the International Organization for Migration/Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat funded CRS in Angola in 1996–1997 to manage quartering areas for demobilization of ex-combatants, to raise mine awareness and to aid the internally displaced. In the Great Lakes region, from 1994 on, WFP, UNICEF and FAO supported CRS disaster relief and reconciliation among internally displaced and host populations in Burundi; in East Africa, UNICEF funded CRS Child Survival in north-east Kenya. In West Africa, WFP and FAO supported CRS disaster relief and aid to refugees and internally displaced peoples in Liberia and Sierra Leone, and in 1995–1996, UNHCR/WFP funded CRS food aid to Tuareg refugees in Burkina Faso;

(b) Asia: In the Democratic People's Republic of Korea in 1997, CRS and four other United States non-governmental organizations began a joint operation with WFP to provide famine relief. In the Philippines, UNICEF, along with CRS and other non-governmental organizations, produced a training manual entitled "A Culture of Peace" for use in Mindanao;

(c) Europe, Middle East, North Africa: UNHCR supported CRS Bosnia programmes of rehabilitation and reintegration, minority refugee return, and aid to internally displaced peoples; UNDP in Croatia supported CRS micro-loans to refugees returning to homes of origin; in Kosovo and Albania, UNHCR funded CRS aid to refugees and the internally displaced; in the Middle East, CRS worked in coordination with the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) (provision of aid to Palestinian refugees) in Jerusalem, the West Bank and the Gaza Strip;

(d) Latin America and the Caribbean: In 1995–1996, CRS cooperated with WFP on drought relief in north-east Brazil. CRS has distributed food aid provided by the United Nations in the Dominican Republic, El Salvador and Honduras.

A CRS report stated that in the past year, 10 field offices participated in United Nations food assisted development and relief programmes totalling 4,200 metric tons, valued at $1,345,000. In 1997, CRS was pleased to note, as a sign of growing partnership, that cash funding from United Nations agencies had risen 97 per cent from 1996, to $2,347,743. UNHCR funding alone was up $1,850,744 from 1996.

Based on shared visions and values, CRS seeks to continue expanding its collaboration with the United Nations and its member agencies on behalf of the poor, both centrally and through field-based development and relief operations. CRS, as a member of international Catholic development and relief consortia, also hopes to expand its advocacy within the United Nations system regarding global issues such as debt relief, conflict resolution and the promotion of civil society and basic human rights.

5. Christian Children's Fund, Inc.

(Special consultative status granted 1985)

Introductory statement

Established in 1938 and based in Richmond, Virginia, Christian Children's Fund (CCF) is one of the world's oldest and largest child development agencies. For 60 years, the organization has been committed to the survival, protection and development of children through one-on-one child sponsorship. At the present time, CCF's programmes in health and education touch the lives of over 2.5 million needy children in 31 countries in Asia, Africa, Latin America, Eastern Europe and the United States of America.

In addition, eight "international affiliate" organizations in Australia, Denmark, France, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Germany, New Zealand, Sweden and Taiwan Province of China help to promote CCF's programmes and enlist sponsors in Europe and Asia. Affiliates in France and New Zealand became independent autonomous organizations during this period, and BARNfonden/Sweden joined the membership in 1997.

The main source of CCF's funding continues to be individual sponsors who contributed over $96 million (US) to CCF programmes by the end of fiscal year 1997, representing an increase of $30 million in sponsorship revenue since 1994. CCF is committed to ensuring that at least 80 per cent of the sponsor's donation goes to benefit programme services for children and their families. During this period, CCF has also expanded its funding base in the area of grants and contracts, mainly through the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and the Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance. Grant funding had increased since 1994 from approximately $980,000 to over $3 million (US) by the end of 1997.

An Endowment fund, named in honour of an early Executive Director, Dr. Verent Mills, was also established during this period in support of health and education programmes to benefit children in CCF's worldwide projects.

A pivotal development during the past four years has been CCF's establishment of a new evaluation system called AIMES (Annual Impact Monitoring and Evaluation System), which has provided an unprecedented level of accountability across all of the organization's field programmes. Based on detailed indicators in health and education compiled at the field level, this new system allows CCF to measure the impact of our assistance on each sponsored child, then prioritize and target service delivery accordingly. The system emphasizes the linkage and accountability between CCF, the sponsor and the child and seeks to promote and replicate "best practices" in CCF's field programming for children and families.

To further enhance CCF's overall accountability, CCF introduced in 1996 a new "Network Auditing" system, designed to ensure that its 1,200 projects are audited on a regular basis through a combination of local auditors, Coopers and Lybrand, or CCF's Internal Audit Unit. It also seeks to provide complementarity between the aforementioned AIMES data, as well as other key indicators in sponsorship and financial management.

In addition, CCF has maintained its affiliations with other international non-governmental organizations in consultative status with ECOSOC such as World Vision International, the International Save the Children Alliance, Plan International and others working on behalf of children's rights and development. In particular, these four agencies have collaborated at the global level with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) in support of the goals of the World Summit for Children in launching a joint initiative to promote girl's education in six different countries. This ongoing initiative was recognized by the Director of UNICEF's Programme Division, Mr. Sadiq Rasheed, in his annual statement to the Executive Board of UNICEF in June 1998. In that same statement, Mr. Rasheed acknowledged the specific cooperation between CCF and UNICEF in Angola by "training over 1,500 community members to give psychosocial support to over 17,000 war-traumatized children, including underage soldiers". CCF's programme in Angola was also acknowledged in UNICEF's annual report, *The State of the World's Children, 1996* (New York, Oxford University Press, 1996) (p. 24, figure 1 entitled "Angolan children in war") focusing on child victims of armed conflict and the measures required for rehabilitation and reintegration into their societies.

In support of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Culture of Peace Programme and the General Assembly's proclamation, in its resolution 52/15 of 20 November 1997, of the year 2000 as the International Year for the Culture of Peace, the Psychologists for Social Responsibility awarded CCF its "Distinguished Contribution to the Culture of Peace" Award in August 1998 for its programme in Angola.

Participation in the Economic and Social Council and/or other cooperation with United Nations programmes, bodies and specialized agencies

During the past four years, CCF has maintained close relations with UNICEF through its expanding role on the NGO Committee on UNICEF, which itself enjoys consultative status with the Executive Board of UNICEF. The former President of CCF, Dr. Paul McCleary, concluded his term as the President of the NGO Committee on UNICEF in 1994 prior to his retirement. From 1995 to 1997, CCF representatives Mr. Arthur Simon (CCF-Washington Director) and Dr. Michelle Poulton (CCF-Geneva Director) continued CCF's representation on the Board of the NGO Committee in New York and Geneva, respectively. In June 1997, Dr. Poulton was elected Deputy President of the NGO Committee on UNICEF. In this capacity, CCF has regularly attended scheduled meetings of the Committee Board in Geneva in addition to key New York meetings and that of UNICEF.

As further evidence of this cooperative trend, CCF collaborated with the Belarusian Children's Fund and UNICEF in November 1994 to host a conference in Minsk focusing on the rights of the child. In addition, UNICEF and CCF also collaborated to provide social work education to Belorussian University professors through an exchange programme between Belorussian, American and European social work experts. A regional seminar, with UNICEF support, was also convened by CCF in Estonia in 1995, which focused on support for the family in the Baltic States.

CCF-Geneva has also strengthened its contacts with other United Nations agencies and non-governmental organizations in Geneva during this time and has played a leadership role with other non-governmental organization committee members in the ongoing dialogue on making the committee more decentralized and issue-oriented. In view of CCF's rehabilitative, psychosocial programming in Angola and Sierra Leone, CCF has also supported events surrounding the release of the United Nations–sponsored study by Graca Machel relating to the impact of armed conflict on children.

CCF has also been active in promoting the importance of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, has followed the activities of the Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and has also become a signatory to non-governmental organization-led initiatives urging the United States Congress to ratify the Convention. CCF National Offices also promote the United Nations Convention in the overall context of children's rights and development in their own countries, and some are active in National Councils/Committees on the Rights of the Child.

At the same time, CCF National Offices interact directly with UNICEF, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the World Bank and other agencies at the field level in support of organizational priorities relating to child development.

In summary, CCF remains committed to and supportive of the short- and long-term goals of the United Nations system, and subscribes to the belief that the programme interventions of international non-governmental organizations as well as of their local and national counterparts can serve to complement the programmes of the United Nations system as we continue to work together in partnership.

6. Consultative Council of Jewish Organizations

(Special consultative status granted 1947)

The Consultative Council of Jewish Organizations (CCJO) was founded in 1947 by Nobel Peace Prize Laureate, René Cassin, first President of the European Court of Human Rights, principal author of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and President of the Alliance Israélite Universelle.

Since its establishment, CCJO and its constituent organizations, the Alliance Israélite Universelle, the American Friends of the Alliance Israélite Universelle, the Anglo-Jewish Association and the Canadian Friends of the Alliance Israélite Universelle, have been actively participating with the United Nations and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) in organizing programmes and developing projects on issues related to human rights, international law and education.

From 1947 through the late 1980s CCJO focused its activities in New York, Where it sponsored conferences on such topics as the Abuse of human rights in the Soviet Union, and Strategies to implement the International Covenants on Human Rights. In the early 1990s, a decision was made to shift CCJO's focus and resources by expanding its presence in Europe, through its participation with the United Nations and UNESCO in Geneva and Paris and to increase its exposure to the community through the sponsorship of programmes and academic conferences.

The CCJO's European offices has been based in Paris under the direction of Gérard Israël, author and expert on international law and political affairs. After serving for over 25 years, Mr. Israël retired and a Search Committee has been formed and is in the process of finding a replacement. In addition, CCJO is represented in London by Clemens N. Nathan, a Jewish communal leader and in Montreal by Gary Waxman and Edmond Elbaz, two communal leaders. Currently, an Italian branch of CCJO is being established in Milan.

During the period 1994–1997, CCJO's activities have included:

(a) Participating in the Commission on Human Rights in Geneva: representatives of CCJO's European offices have attended and actively participated in the Commission on Human Rights convened annually in Geneva. Their involvement included:

Presentation of reports on the right of restitution, compensation and rehabilitation for victims of gross violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms (E/CN.4/Sub.2/1993/8), the administration of justice and the human rights of detainees (E/CN.4/Sub.2/1995/NGO/38) and protection des minorités: examen global de sujets précis relatifs au racisme, à la xénophobie, aux minorités et aux travailleurs migrants (E/CN.4/Sub.2/2/1995/NGO/40) on 9 August 1995;

(b) United Nations and UNESCO activities: CCJO's offices participated in United Nations and UNESCO projects in Paris and Geneva, which included:

(i) Serving as a member of the Liaison Committee of French non-governmental organizations to the United Nations Office in Paris;

(ii) Serving as a consultant to the Executive Committee and General Conference of UNESCO in Paris and Geneva in matters related to human rights, law and education;

(iii) Sending a delegation to participate in the Sub-commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, held in Geneva in August 1997;

(c) Carrying on the work of René Cassin in the field of human rights, as follows:

(i) The Canadian Friends of the Alliance Israélite Universelle have sponsored an annual René Cassin Symposium at McGill University in Montreal. Keynote speakers have included Professor Thomas S. Kuttner and Professor Irwin Cottler, experts on human rights, Judge Jules Deschênes, Chairman of a government commission investigating Nazi war criminals in Canada, and Dr. Bernard Kouchner, a researcher who spoke on racism and xenophobia;

(ii) Working with the Association pour la Fidelité à la Pensée du Président René Cassin, which promotes the efforts of the late Nobel Prize Laureate in the area of international law;

(iii) Collaborating with the International Institute of Human Rights to promote the development of educational material on the subject, as well as to distribute academic prizes and student scholarships;

(d) Miscellaneous activities:

(i) Served as a consultant to the Council of Europe in Strasbourg, France, in matters pertaining to human rights;

(ii) Co-sponsored a colloquium on "The Struggle Against Racism and Xenophobia" in Strasbourg in November 1994;

(iii) Assisted the French National Commission on Human Rights by addressing such issues as educational approaches to teaching about human rights, educational reform, nationality and minority rights, and drug and acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS) education;

(iv) Participated in the United Nations Caucus of Jewish non-governmental organizations sponsored by B'nai B'rith International's United Nations Affairs Department in New York;

(v) Sent a delegation to participate in the Yitzhak Rabin Annual Conference on the United Nations sponsored by the B'nai B'rith Centre for Public Policy in September 1997;

(e) Activities of CCJO's constituent organizations:

(i) CCJO's constituent organizations have supported the goals of CCJO by planning programmes on various aspects of human rights and interfaith relations, a symposium on the Middle East peace process sponsored by the Alliance Israélite Universelle in Paris in November 1995;

(ii) They disseminate information about the goals, programmes, projects and activities of CCJO through the publications of its constituent organizations. These journals include *The Alliance Review* (New York), *The AJA Review* (London), *Les Cahiers de l'Alliance Israélite Universelle* and *Les Cahiers du Judaïsme* (Paris) and *Bita' on KYACH* (Jerusalem).

It is the hope of CCJO and its constituent organizations to continue its mission of assisting the United Nations in eliminating racial and religious intolerance, violations of human rights and promoting the cause of freedom.

We look forward in the coming months to joining our sister organizations in celebrating the fiftieth anniversary of the ratification of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights co-authored by our organization's founder, the late René Cassin.

7. European Federation of Conference Towns

(Special consultative status granted 1985)

The European Federation of Conference Towns (EFCT) was founded in 1963 as a professional association for those special towns in Europe which are dedicated to the development of modern, efficient conference destinations, complete with the infrastructure, facilities and services that make this possible.

Since then, while retaining these essential aims and objectives, EFCT has moved ahead and enlarged its horizons. Thanks in a significant part to EFCT's leadership and communication programme, it has become more widely recognized that conferences and congresses are a vital component of the communication processes which all countries have to depend on, if social and economic progress and development are to be maintained.

Assistance to the European Union

More than any other body, EFCT has assisted the European Community to understand the importance of a strong European conference industry, and the value of attracting international congresses that play a major role in professional and social interchange and development.

For many years EFCT maintained a Liaison Office in Brussels in continuing contact with the Brussels, Strasbourg and Luxembourg headquarters of the European Union (EU), concerning the many matters relating to conferences that can crop up in legislation.

Three years ago, EFCT offered participation to other professional groups and set up a new office called EMILG, (the European Meetings Industry Liaison Group), also in Brussels. The first to join EFCT in this were IAPCO (International Association of Professional Congress Organisers), ICCA (the International Congress and Convention Association) and MPI (Meeting Professionals International). Others have followed. EFCT retains the Chair of this cooperative group.

EMILG is an accepted voice of the industry, and works on all aspects of EU activity and legislation. It attends relevant EU meetings, and an instance recently was the Conference on Quality in Tourism, organized by the current Austrian EU Presidency, in which the EMILG Chairman was a featured speaker.

EFCT was awarded consultative status with the Economic and Social Council in 1978; we have ever since regarded this distinction with pride, and done all we can to justify it. Setting up EMILG has increased our ability to fulfil the Council's role.

We try to keep EFCT members (a hundred of Europe's top destination cities) and the other cooperating groups advised about developments that might involve the Economic and Social Council. These include, for instance, the convention against torture, child rights, elimination of racial discrimination, protection of minorities, freedom of movement, intellectual protection, research cooperation, the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), protection of the environment and cooperation between developed and emerging countries.

We campaign always to emphasize the role of meetings and conferences as a key instrument for peace, well-being, international cooperation, professional interchange, the exchange of scientific activity and technology and the improvement of skills in almost every discipline.

1994

This was the second year of the European Union, and the new European Economic Area (EEA) was established, including Austria, Finland, Norway, Sweden and Iceland; for several it was a halfway house towards full membership.

Surveys indicated that conference delegates were spending more — an increase of 52 per cent — between 1985 and 1993. During this year EFCT took its annual conference to Helsinki where the Federation's thirtieth birthday was celebrated. A survey of those years was published in EFCT at 30.

We reminded the European Union that although tourism was Europe's biggest industry, with 6.5 per cent of gross domestic product (GDP) and also the biggest employer, it had been omitted from the Treaty of Rome and as a result there was no EU policy or activity on the subject. We suggested this was a situation that should be rectified, and there was widespread support throughout the tourism industry for this attitude.

Our aim was that when the Treaty was to be reassessed in Maastricht in 1996, tourism would at last be recognized by the Community. The EC's own Economic and Social Council shared our concern.

We were active in lobbying on the proposed distance selling draft legislation, which included several aspects detrimental to business tourism. Our sixth *Report on Europe* was published in the spring; it showed some optimism that the market situation was improving. EFCT's eighth Summer School took place this year in Brussels.

1995

EFCT stressed its support for the European environmental programme by joining Green Globe, an agency established by the World Travel and Tourism Council.

The European Parliament voted to include tourism in the EU programme and called for a Tourism Agency to work alongside the European Environmental Agency. But this was not supported by the Governments of several influential EU nations, and little progress was made.

A big step was the enlargement of the European Union to include Austria, Finland and Sweden, making a total of 15 countries. We noted that the newcomers were all prominent conference countries, with leading cities that were EFCT members.

A number of new convention bureaux were established, including in Stockholm and Tampere. New EFCT members included Bratislava (Slovakia), Istanbul (Turkey), Le Mans (France), Limassol (Cyprus), Montlucon (France) and Reykjavik (Iceland).

Our Summer School went to Innsbruck; our annual *Report on Europe* emphasized the importance of the Single Market and indicated a continuing improvement in the market situation across Europe. This year EFCT was one of the first in the meetings world to adopt the Internet, and has been prominent ever since.

The Commissioner for the European Union's Twenty-third Directorate-General, Christos Papoutsis, wrote to congratulate EFCT on its role in Europe, saying it had succeeded for Europe in winning 60 per cent of all the international congresses. Its role in Europe, he added, had provided a great service and substantial investment to the host communities, all stemming from the establishment of EFCT in Brussels 30 years earlier.

This year EFCT started a two-year term as Chair and Secretariat of JMIC, the Joint Meetings Industry Group, which involves 15 of the leading professional organizations worldwide. There was wide concern when EU refused to vote a tourism budget for the coming year.

The First International Congress for Children on the Environment took place in Eastbourne, an EFCT member city, this year. A United Nations survey of 30,000 children formed part of the agenda, and heads of State and politicians worldwide gave support. Eight hundred children from 85 countries participated, and the wide range of projects around the world captured the imagination of the media. The delegates made 25 resolutions, and the United Nations circulated these widely from New York.

1996

The Twenty-third Directorate-General of the European Commission issued a Green Paper on the future of tourism within the Common Market; EFCT was a major contributor thereto and to the discussion that followed. High hopes were raised, but after months of delay and opposition from major member States it was shelved.

A working lunch for politicians from European countries was held at the annual EIBTM trade show in Geneva, setting a pattern for an annual event where they could discuss the conference market informally with other politicians and with the representatives of EFCT and other professional bodies.

EFCT's ninth *Report on Europe* showed how conference activity in Eastern European cities was increasing, and acknowledged the Federation's programme of assistance to emerging destinations.

This year EFCT celebrated the hundredth anniversary of the world's first convention bureau, in Detroit, Michigan; at an anniversary conference in that city we presented a paper on the European conference scene. This year our annual conference was in Warsaw, and the Summer School went to Nice.

EFCT gave strong support to a project from the Twenty-third Directorate-General called Philoxenia, which stemmed from the Green Paper the previous year. This provided modest support for congress promotion on behalf of Europe and had other features welcomed by the industry.

Sadly it was opposed by major member States, and never really started. This and other hopeful proposals from the EU Commissioner for the Twenty-third Directorate-General were also due for discussion at the Inter-government Conference which moved from Florence to Dublin this year, but they never came to the floor. Meetings on tourism were cancelled.

Tampere was nominated by EFCT for this year's Green Globe Award, and was voted the winner.

1997

EFCT supported ETAG, the European Tourism Action Group, in calling for improvement in value-added tax (VAT) restrictions and freedom from other taxes such as the airport departure tax. We asked for better statistics and closer cooperation between the Government and private sectors. We supported the strong EU stance against the commercial exploitation of children, and a call for practical action by the travel trade.

This year, the EFCT Summer School was held in Barcelona and the annual conference went to Reykjavik. EFCT presented a paper on business travel at a regional conference in Porto, which was widely distributed. The EU Presidency moved from Ireland to Luxembourg, and a conference there on tourism and employment emphasized the role played by tourism in general and business tourism in particular in combating the major Community problem of finding new jobs; but there was little progress in the attempt to have tourism and conferences included in the official business of the European Union.

The annual meeting with representative politicians was successful and our educational programme, including parliamentarians, hotel schools and many professional people, continued. EFCT this year endorsed Istanbul Convention Bureau and the Turkish Soil Erosion Control Association jointly for the Green Globe Award, and this partnership was successful. EFCT nominations have now won this environmental accolade for two successive years.

Summary

During the four years under review, EFCT has been more active than ever and has continued to accept the responsibilities of consultative status with the Economic and Social Council. We plan to continue this pattern and do all we can to further the activities of the Council and draw attention to its achievements and programme.

8. World Jewish Congress (WJC)

(Special consultative status granted 1941)

Brief introductory statement

The period covered by this quadrennial report 1994–1997 has been marked by significant changes on the international scene, not least of which is the evolving character of the former Soviet Union. As a result of the affiliation of several Jewish communities in the former Soviet Union with the World Jewish Congress (WJC), there are almost 90 Jewish communities that are WJC national members.

WJC continues to maintain links with the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies through, *inter alia*, the two principal human rights organs, the Commission on Human Rights and the Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities. WJC's active participation in all sessions of these bodies is detailed below, as is the evidence of our ongoing engagement with the treaty body process. WJC continues to follow with great interest the work of the Human Rights Committee, the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, the Committee Against Torture, and the Committee on the Rights of the Child.

The organization has also had a special interest over the past four years in pursuing redress for wrongs suffered by former victims of the Nazi regime during the Second World War, pursuant to the principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. Representations have been made to authorities of neutral Second World War countries on behalf of persons, or their successors, entitled to restitution for assets entrusted to banks, or other institutions, such as insurance companies, fiduciaries and so on, in addition to requests that appropriate measures be taken for property of heirless victims to be applied for other surviving victims of the Holocaust who are in need.

Activities

WJC participated in the fiftieth, fifty-first, fifty-second, fifty-third and fifty-fourth sessions of the Commission on Human Rights. Oral statements were made on the following subjects:

(a) At the fifty-fourth session, on 24 March 1998, on agenda item 14: Effective functioning of bodies established pursuant to United Nations human rights instruments;

(b) Also at the fifty-fourth session, on 23 March 1998, on agenda item 12: Racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance;

(c) At the fifty-third session, on 24 March 1997, on agenda item 19: Implementation of the Declaration on the Elimination of All Forms of Intolerance and Discrimination Based on Religion or Belief;

(d) Also at the fifty-third session, on 11 March 1997, on the mandate of a Special Rapporteur;

(e) At the fifty-second session, on 9 April 1996, on the topic of agenda reform;

(f) Also at the fifty-second, on 21 March 1996, on agenda item 4: Situation of human rights in the Occupied Territories;

(g) At the fifty-first session, under agenda item 11, on terrorism.

WJC took part in the forty-sixth, forty-seventh and forty-ninth sessions of the Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities.

WJC attended the last four sessions of the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. WJC has closely followed the question of liberal asylum policies and the increasing phenomenon of refoulement.

A statement was made by the representative of WJC on the occasion of Human Rights Day on 10 December 1997.

WJC attended, and made a statement at, the Meeting of Government Experts on the Use of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Emblems, held on 13 and 14 February 1997.

At the Webster University Conference on "War Crimes in Yugoslavia: Peace or Justice", a WJC representative delivered a speech on the topic "Geneva and the Challenge of Humanitarian Action in the 1990s", on 15 February 1996.

A speech entitled "The United Nations and Israel" was delivered to the Tenth International Conference of Jewish Lawyers and Jurists, held on 29 December 1995.

As part of WJC's ongoing involvement in reform of the Red Cross movement, a representative attended the Twenty-sixth International Conference of the Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, and made a statement on 5 December 1995.

WJC participated in the Economic and Social Council Forum on Non-Governmental Organizations and

Development, held on 3 July 1995, and made a statement on that occasion.

A WJC representative presented a paper entitled "The Treatment of Israel and the Rise of Economic 'Rights' in the United Nations Commission on Human Rights" to the American Society of International Law 1995 Annual Meeting held from 5 to 8 April 1995.

A speech was delivered by a WJC representative to the Fourteenth Regional Conference of European United Nations Associations on 7 November 1994.

WJC continues to maintain a high level of interest in United Nations treaty bodies. Sessions of the following treaty bodies were attended by WJC representatives, and informal representation to Chairmen and/or Committee members was made with respect to issues arising in particular country reports on several occasions:

(a) Human Rights Committee (International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights);

(b) Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination);

(c) Committee Against Torture (Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman and Degrading Treatment or Punishment);

(d) Committee on the Rights of the Child (Convention on the Rights of the Child).

Representation has been made by WJC representatives to both the Special Rapporteur on Torture and the Special Rapporteur on Contemporary Forms of Racism, Racial Discrimination and Xenophobia.

WJC has met with a number of United Nations officials, including the Director-General of the United Nations Office at Geneva, the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. At these meetings, WJC representatives engaged in a dialogue to explain WJC's areas of activity, and opportunities to assist in the work of various United Nations bodies and agencies.

Throughout the period under review, WJC has been pleased to serve as Treasurer of the Conference of Non-Governmental Organizations in Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council (CONGO).

WJC continues its involvement with the Special Committee of Non-Governmental Organizations on Human Rights (formerly Special Committee of International Non-Governmental Organizations on Human Rights (Geneva)) and has held the position of Treasurer for the duration of the period covered by the present quadrennial report.